

1. Get Acquainted: Discovery (10 minutes)

What has been your favorite personal hardship?

How has it been a benefit to you?

2. Kingdom Centered Prayer: (10 Minutes)

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD for His holy perspective – that He sees and knows what no one else possibly can! Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for His surpassing perspective *and* for how He shares that with us.
2. How have you lived in tension with God’s perspective and good design? Confess your pride and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and persuade you of His steadfast, eternal promises vs. the temporary lies of this world.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for His work to redeem us *through* suffering, loss and even death. Thank Him for offering His crown of life to us, by His Grace and by His eternal promises.
4. Who do you know that seems to be unable to count any joy in their trials or hardships? Pray for them, asking the Lord to open their eyes to what is fleeting vs. what is eternal, to give them His hope.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and joy, *especially* in trials or hardships. Pray for His wisdom to help you live faithfully and in keeping with His perspective rather than in doubt or self- pity.

3. Worship: Worship God in Crisis Because We Know Him (10 minutes)

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (ESV). Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

Spend time worshipping the Lord together by delighting in what He is exposing in your heart through each crisis we are now facing bringing you to greater dependence on His Glory:

- Covid19 – The Pandemic
- Racial Tensions In US and World
- California, Oregon, Washington Fires
- Masks or No Masks

4. Sermon Reflection: (10 Minutes)

Proclamation of God's Word

Text: James 1:1-12 (ESV). **Meditation Verses:** James 1:2-4

Title: Faithful Character In Crisis: Count It All Joy **Teacher:** Tim Rice

Intro: How do you typically think about hardship?

WISDOM FROM ABOVE

Why do we need wisdom or God's perspective?

PROFOUND, ENDURING TENSIONS

How are God's ways (*His Kingdom*) at odds with the ways of the world?

GOD'S REDEEMING PATTERN

But why do we believe that we can live in joy?

5. Mission: Develop Your Passion of the Week (10 Minutes)

The Week of the Passion is the description of the last week of Jesus' life. His passion that week was The Cross. So it might be helpful if each of us have a Passion of the Week (PoW). It is just a phrase that becomes our theme for the week.

Guidelines to develop your PoW:

- Purpose: Theme for the Week, Grid to think through, Prayer Launcher, Conversation Starter
- Sources: Meditation Verse in Worship Folder, Sermon Passage, Sermon
- Length: 3 to 8 words
- Example:
 - God's in the Control Tower: Listen to Him
 - God: Wisdom from Above
 - Joy in Trials, Joy in All Things
 - Joy
 - Bad (trouble) is Good (from God)
 - Steadfastness: holding up my end
 - Faith Testing Protocol: Test, Joy, Steadfastness, No Lacking

6. Jesus From Others – (10 Minutes)

Close your time together letting each person share something they came to love about Jesus from something someone in the group shared during your time together.

- What do you love more about Jesus from what someone shared during our CG tonight?