

TITLE: HOW TO GET THROUGH WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH

SESSION FIVE: SANCTIFICATION – TRANSFORMED BY TROUBLE

KEY VERSE: "God wants us to grow up...like Christ".

Ephesians 4:15(The Message)

CHECKING IN: Last week Kay reminded us that grief doesn't paralyze; fear does. Was there anything

You did differently this past week that released your fear and brought you peace?

Share your "peace moment" with the group.

God's #1 Purpose in your Life is to Make You:

For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son.

Romans 8:29(NIV)

God wants us to grow up. . . like Christ.

Ephesians 4:15(The Message)

We look at this Son . . . and see God's original purpose in everything created.

Colossians 1:15(The Message)

4 THINGS GOD USES TO MAKE YOU LIKE JESUS:

1. God uses _____.
2. God uses _____.

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

John 17:17(KJV)

3. God uses _____.
4. God uses _____.

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10(NLT)

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

2 Corinthians 4:16:18(NLT)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. Who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28(NIV)

3 WAYS TO HANDLE PROBLEMS:

1. Remember that _____.

The secret to handling pain is this: Remember that all pain is temporary but the reward is eternal.

2. _____ and _____.

Give thanks in all circumstances;

For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1Thessalonians 5:18(NIV)

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Philippians 4:4(NIV)

Be full of joy at that time, because you have a great reward in heaven.

Luke 6:23(NCV)

3. _____.

But let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed, and you will find you have become men of mature character.

James 1:4(Phillips)

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

1. God's #1 purpose for your life is that you become like Jesus Christ. How is God fulfilling that Purpose in your character?

2. It's easy to love people who love you. But God wants to teach you real love by connecting you with people who are hard to love. How do you see God doing this in your relationship? What have you learned about yourself?

3. Even though you wouldn't invite trouble into your life, God uses every problem for a purpose. You are transformed by your troubles. What problem are you in the midst of right now? Can you recognize how God is shaping you in this trial?

4. God specializes in bringing good out of bad. How has he done that in your life? Share how this has changed your perspective of problems.

5. When you go through a problem, you have a choice. You can pray and ask God to make it easy, or you can ask him to use it for good in your life. Human nature leans us toward "easy", but your faith can anchor you throughout the storm if you trust in God's promises. What promise(s) do you anchor yourself in when trouble comes?
