

MAKING DISCIPLES - LESSON 11 APPLICATION

Applying Truth in Adversity

It is challenging for many people, even believers, to understand hardship and adversity from God's perspective.

✚ **ACTION:** Please become familiar with the Scriptures below, as they will be helpful to you and to those you mentor.

Thinking through the answers to the following questions will better equip you to answer the questions of those you train in discipleship.

📎 **READ: John 16:33**

TRUE | FALSE: Each and every believer will experience stressful and challenging times.

✍ **WRITE:** God has equipped us with truth through His Word, so we will not be caught off guard or unaware by situations and circumstances in life. In what ways should knowledge of this verse equip Christ-followers experiencing adversity? (Be specific.)

✍ What purpose might God have in allowing or leading His children to experience hardship and adversity?


✍ Should a believer respond differently to adversity resulting from personal sin than he would to adversity experienced from other sources? (Explain.)


📎 **James 1:2-4**


✍ Why is the testing of one's faith necessary in the life of a believer?

✍ What is it about challenging circumstances and adverse conditions that reveal what we really believe to be true about God?

✍ What is the benefit of perseverance in the life of a believer?

 Why is it important for a Christ-follower to be proactive in learning to embrace God's purpose in adversity?

 **Isaiah 26:3-4; Psalm 46:1, 91:2; Philippians 4:4-7**

 **FISHING FOR MEN:** How will you encourage others to find perfect peace in the midst of life's storms?


The Bible: God's Discipleship Manual

 **Matthew 28:20**


By using the word "everything" here, Christ is all-inclusive concerning His instructions; nothing is to be overlooked in His commands. God's commands are to be specifically and fully obeyed.


 **Titus 2:11-15**

Teaching others to understand Scripture will equip them to more easily identify the lies presented by the world and help them distinguish godly behavior from worldly passions. Apart from God's truth, a person cannot come to a saving knowledge of Jesus or obtain victory over temptation. Therefore, we should be prepared to diligently teach others to live according to God's Word.

 **2 Corinthians 4:2; Romans 1:16**

God uses His Word to convict the consciences of people to bring them to repentance. Therefore, we are to rely fully on the power of Scripture to convict. Jesus' disciples turned against shameful ways in order to set themselves apart to Christ and the work of His kingdom. They didn't operate in their own authority, but on the authority of God's Word, being careful to speak and present it correctly. In doing so, they walked in obedience to God, leaving the results to Him. In turn, if we, too, convey God's Word under His authority, we can trust that He will use it for His glory.

 Ask God to enable you to establish the habit of consistently sharing biblical precepts by exchanging your own words for His absolute truth.

 What potential influence could this habit have in the lives of people you encounter? (Be specific.)

 **FISHING FOR MEN: Colossians 2:8; 1 Timothy 4:7; 1 Peter 2:2**

Be mindful of the world's influence on those you disciple. The world is influencing some to believe that sinful behavior is relative to a given situation, and/or that closely following God's commands is legalistic, a disregard of His grace and mercy. Be prepared to lovingly instruct others that God's standard of truth is absolute. Complete surrender to Jesus requires one to walk the narrow road of obedience that pleases Him.

➡️ **Isaiah 55:10-11**

Just as we cannot always see the immediate effects of moisture on developing plants, we may not see the immediate effects of God's Word taking root in the heart of those we disciple. Regardless of whether we witness immediate spiritual fruit through conveying Scripture to others, we can trust it will fulfill God's intended purpose.

➡️ What are the potential spiritual benefits of communicating God's truth as He leads?

➡️ What are the spiritual benefits of trusting God with the results?

⚡ **TO ENCOURAGE:** But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold. My feet have closely followed his steps; I have kept to his way without turning aside. I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread. (**Job 23:10-12**)