

02/11/18 | RISE ABOVE: Adversity



*"You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near ...
As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered."*

—James 5:8, 11a | NIV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever persevered when those around you gave up or told you to give up? What was your attitude or outlook during this time? Explain.
2. Consider this quote. What does it mean to you? How does it relate to Old Testament Joseph? Where would you apply it in your life?

When you walk with God, there are qualities that even people of the world can see.

—J. Oswald Sanders

Paul's example

3. Read Philippians 1:12-18. What is the result of Paul's (the author's) imprisonment? Does this ever happen when we suffer today?
4. Read Philippians 1:19-26. Why does Paul decide it is better to remain alive and working than dead and with Christ?
5. Read Philippians 1:27-30. How should believers face trials? What good does that do?
6. Read Philippians 3:10-4:1. Why did Paul persevere and encourage other believers to persevere? What can you learn from this passage?

7. How is what Paul faced similar to what Joseph went through? How do these two examples compare with your life? (For more background on Paul's trials, read 2 Corinthians 11:23-29 & 12:9-11.)

Why do we persevere?

8. Read Romans 8:17-18. What connection do these verses make between suffering and glory? How is this message encouraging to you?
9. Read 1 Peter 4:12-16. What attitude does Peter say believers should have when we suffer? Why? Is this ever easy?
10. Read Hebrews 12:1-3. What are believers ordered to do? Does your life ever feel like a race? How can you fix your eyes on Jesus this week?

TAKEAWAY: Learn to stay purpose-centered instead of self-centered.