



Small Group Discussion Questions

Ice Breaker

What is the hardest test you recall taking?

Discussion

What insight, principle, or observation from the weekend's message did you find to be most helpful, eye opening, or troubling? Or, what stood out and was meaningful to you and why?

Read James 1:2-3

- According to James, what should be a Christian's attitude when facing trials? What trials or tests do we face in the 21st century? How they are similar to the first century Christians and the trials they faced?
- Most people have had trials that they wouldn't sign up for it again. But now they can now look back and see ways in which they grew through that experience. What have you been through in your life that at the time was difficult but enabled you to grow? Share your story.
- How is it possible to show joy as we go through periods of trials and testing?

"We shoot for happiness, but we are formed through suffering."

Three facts about problems:

- Problems are **inevitable**
 - Read John 16:33
 - Read Psalm 34:19
- Problems are **variable**
 - Read James 1:2
- Problems are **profitable**
 - Read James 1:3-4

Further Discussion

- Do you find that you seek God more when times are good or when times are tough? Explain
- Ben talked about three different sources of problems
 - Me
 - Other People
 - Everything Else
- How do you react to the idea that you are responsible for the majority of your problems? Do you agree or disagree

"Embrace the Problem"

Ben Davis

James 1:2-3 "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."

1. **Problems are** _____.
2. **Problems are** _____.
3. **Problems are** _____.

Action Steps

- **Ask God for** _____.
- **Don't** _____.
- **Focus on** _____.

Hebrews 12:2-3 "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

with the statement? What can you learn from this realization?

- Read James 1:13
- What stages does temptation go through to become full-grown sin? What have you found helpful in dealing with temptation?
- Keeping in mind we cannot control other people and everything else, what are the best responses to those types and sources of problems?

Application:

Wrapping up week one, Ben asked us to remember to:

- Ask God for wisdom
- Don't give up
- Focus on the reward

How will you incorporate these strategies in the coming week?
What are one or two steps you can take to embrace problems?

Pray