

Knowing God in Trials | Week 4

Introduction

This week we explored what it means to truly know God, especially in times of trouble. John 17:3 tells us that eternal life isn't just about going to heaven someday—it's about knowing God deeply, personally, and intimately right now. One of the most powerful ways we come to know God is through trials. When life is comfortable, we can coast spiritually. But when we face difficulties, we have a choice: we can run from God or run to Him. This week, we learned four practical steps for navigating trials in a way that deepens our relationship with God: embrace the pain honestly instead of denying it, choose positive actions even when it's hard, fix your eyes on the horizon of God's faithfulness, and don't go it alone—let others carry your burdens with you. God is close to the brokenhearted, and He uses our trials to reveal His character and draw us closer to Him.

Conversation Starters (5 minutes)

- When have you felt God's presence most strongly during a difficult season?

Sermon Notes Review (15 minutes)

What caught your attention, stood out to you, or challenged you from this weekend's teaching?

Group Discussion (40 minutes)

Scripture Observation:

1. Read [John 17:3](#). Circle the word "know." What's the difference between knowing about God and truly knowing Him?

Scripture Interpretation/Discussion:

2. How do trials create opportunities to know God in ways that comfort and ease cannot?
3. What does it mean that "the LORD is close to the brokenhearted" ([Psalm 34:18](#))? How have you experienced or seen this to be true?

Personal Application:

4. This weekend, Chad shared four things to do in times of trouble: Embrace the pain; Choose positive actions; Fix your eyes on hope; and Don't go it alone. How have these practices helped you in the past?

We will now spend some time practicing carrying one another's burdens in prayer.

Prayer (20 minutes)

**We recommend that you divide men and women separately for this extended time of prayer*

- Share with one another a difficulty you are currently facing.
- Pray for each person. You can use your own words or the following words:

God, thank you that you love (person's name). Thank you that you are a God who loves to heal. In Your Word, you tell us that you are near to the brokenhearted. Holy Spirit, we ask you to come. Fill (person's name) with your peace, your presence, and your comfort. Heal his/her wound of _____. Help us as his/her friends to support him/her through this season, continuing to remind him/her of who You are and who You say he/she is. We thank you for (person's name)'s honesty in sharing this trial with us. Help him/her to continue to be honest about the pain, to choose positive actions, to fix his/her eyes on the horizon, and to continue to allow us as his/her friends to come alongside him/her. Jesus, thank you for your comfort and your healing. In Your Name we pray, Amen.

- Commit to praying for one another and checking in with one another throughout the week.

Announcements

Easter is coming soon, and it is a time when our friends, family, and neighbors who do not know Jesus are likely to come to church. We expect to see hundreds of new guests this Easter, and want to invite you to be a part of creating a wonderful experience for them.

If you are not currently part of a serving team, this is the perfect time to try one out! Serving together with your small group makes it even more fun.

Find opportunities to serve and sign up at serve.sv.cc.