

HomeGroup Discussion Guide

January 11-17, 2009

Key Idea of the Week:

God has called us to live lives of surrender to his will. This means we don't just enjoy gifts of ease and blessing from God, but we also accept trouble, persecution and trials as opportunities for growth and strengthening of our faith. How can we surrender more willingly to trouble in our lives and allow it to do its refining work on our characters?

Discussion Guide:

Pray for God to soften your hearts and speak to you as you open His Word together.

Read Jonah 2:1-10.

Discuss

In verse 3, Jonah lays the credit for his trouble clearly at God's doorstep. What do you think about when you read this verse?

Is God responsible for all the trials and trouble in your life? List some that he might not be responsible for.

Was God unjust to send the storm and the whale after Jonah? Why did he do it? (see Jonah 1:3-4)

Is trouble in our lives ALWAYS a result of our disobedience? Why else does trouble come?

Can we ALWAYS learn and grow from adversity? If so, do we always grow? Why or why not?

In which verse of chapter two do you think Job turned the corner with God and learned from his adversity? Explain.

What do you think is the key to allowing trouble to shape us and using it to strengthen our faith?

If you really believed that adversity was just an opportunity for growth, how would it change the way you deal with trouble in your life?

Is there a trial in your life that you are frustrated with and don't understand the purpose of? How can others pray for you or otherwise support you in your storm this week?

Pray for courage to act on what you've learned this week and for any requests that may have been raised by members of the group.