

## *The Path to Joy*

### *The goal of the Christian life: Christlikeness*

It starts with genuine, saving faith, that changes us.

1 Peter 1:6-8

Galatians 5:22

James 1:2-5

### **The value of sanctification**

John 10:9-10 Motivation of relationship

Partnering with God in growing

### **The Path**

See the trial

This is a test

This is an opportunity

99% is "small stuff"

Don't waste it!

See God in the trial

Who is God in this?

What about God are you doubting?

See the lies in the trial

We fall for lies we do not see

The sources of lies

See the lies about God

See the Truth about God

What about God is being tested?

Who God is in my trial

See the path and take it  
What would obedience look like?  
Trusting God leads to obeying God  
Acting by faith strengthens faith

### **David and Goliath 1 Samuel 17**

Trial and the choice

See God in the trial

The lies

The Truth about God

The path to take

### **The Fiery Furnace Daniel 3**

Trial and the choice

See God in the trial

The lies

The Truth about God

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### **Paul's Thorn in the flesh 2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

Trial and the choice

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### **Into The Bible**

1 Peter 1:6-8 “In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.”

1. How do trials prove that our faith is genuine, or by contrast show that we have a false faith?
2. If our faith is false or just weak, how can we use trials to strengthen our trust in God and what He has told us?

### **Application**

In 1 Samuel 17 we see the contrast of the disbelief and disobedience of Saul and his armies, with the belief and obedience of David.

1. What were Saul and his men believing and how did that lead them to feel and act?
2. What was David believing and how did it lead him to feel and act?
3. How can we make sure we are prepared like David and act by faith when we are tested?

Choose a typical trial, something that tests our faith in who God is and what He is doing.

Walk thru the steps below, giving specific answers.

1. See the trial and the choices to be made.
2. See God in the trial. Who is He in this trial that I need to believe?
3. See the lies in the trial about God.
4. See the truth about God to apply in this trial.
5. See the path to joy and take it. What does obedience in this look like?

## **For Families**

1. Talk with your children about how knowing God's attributes (Love, power, wisdom, presence, compassion, etc.) helps them when they are afraid or anxious.
2. Look up a few verses with them that show God's character and promises that encourage our faith in the midst of troubles.