# HINDRANCE

WEEK 1
PERSPECTIVE
DANNY ANDERSON

God is always at <u>work</u> .
"My Father is always working, and so am I." John 5:17
God invites us to <u>partner</u> with him.
For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for <b>good works</b> , which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10
And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be <b>unfruitful</b> . <i>Titus 3</i> :14
There are things God wants to do_in_us andthrough_us.
We can be helpful or we can be a <u>hindrance</u> .
But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a <b>hindrance</b> to me. For you are not setting your <b>mind</b> on the things of God, but on the things of man." <i>Matthew 16:23</i>
<b>Hindrance:</b> The act of making it difficult for someone to act in order to get something done
We hinder the work of God with our <u>perspective</u> .
we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:16
God wants you to <u>measure</u> <u>up</u> !
Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, <b>measuring up</b> to the full and complete standard of Christ. <i>Ephesians 4:11-13</i>
God transforms us through <u>difficulty</u> .
Dear brothers and sisters, when <b>troubles</b> come your way, consider it an opportunity for great <b>joy</b> . For you know that when your faith is tested, your <b>endurance</b> has a chance to grow. So let it <b>grow</b> , for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be <b>perfect</b> and <b>complete</b> , needing nothing. <i>James</i> 1:2-4
Do everything without complaining and arguing. Philippians 2:14
When our perspective is off, the difficulty is <u>wasted</u> .

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### WEEKLY BIBLE READING

ONE YEAR NEW TESTAMENT	SUNDAY 1 Timothy 1:1-20	MONDAY 1 Timothy 2:1-15	TUESDAY 1 Timothy 3:1-16	
this week	october 16	october 17	october 18	
WEDNESDAY 1 Timothy 4:1-16	THURSDAY 1 Timothy 5:1-25	FRIDAY 1 Timothy 6:1-21	SATURDAY 2 Timothy 1:1-18	
october 19	october 20	october 21	october 22	
WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE Matthew 16:23				

## HINDRANCE



For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

#### Introduction

God is at work in this world, and He invites us to join Him. We can choose to be a part of His work, or we can be a hindrance to what He is trying to accomplish. His goal for us is to bear His image to others. In order to accomplish this goal He chooses to use difficult circumstances to develop His character in each of us.

#### **Discussion Questions**

- 1. There are two big ideas in this sermon series. First, God is always at work (read John 5:17), and secondly, He invites us to partner with Him to accomplish that work (read Ephesians 2:10). What is your personal reaction to these ideas? How can these ideas change the trajectory of a person's life?
- 2. Sometimes our choices allow us to be fruitful and productive for God. Read Titus 3:14. Share a choice you've made that makes it more likely for you to be fruitful and productive in your work for God?

Sometimes we hinder the work of God with our perspective. Read Matthew 16:21-23. How did God's plan differ from Peter's desired outcome? Share a time when God's plan may have differed from your desired outcome for your life. How did you respond?

3. Read Ephesians 4:11-13 and James 1:2-4. God's number one priority for us is to grow to measure up to the character of Christ. Why is this an important perspective to take on as we face the difficulties He uses to grow our endurance and maturity?

Name some inappropriate responses we have to difficulties. How do these inappropriate responses cause us to miss the chance to develop and mature the way God intends?

4. If God uses difficulties in our lives to produce endurance and full maturity, we must be thinking clearly when trouble strikes. What are some areas of your life God may be using right now to develop and mature you in Christ?

### Small Group Questions Continued

What practical step will you take this week to make sure your difficulties are not wasted?

#### **OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION**

#### OUR CHURCH

Ask your small group leader about serving opportunities at Emmanuel. We need help with the Host Team, Children's Ministry, the production team and student ministries teams.

#### **OUR COMMUNITY**

Prepare lunch for volunteers building a house with Habitat for Humanity on October 14. Contact Jim Gearries at igearries@eclife.org.

#### OUR WORLD

Collect "dorm type items" for Hope Road Nicaragua that will be given to students living in Nicaragua the week of October 16-23. Drop these items off at the Info Desk. Would you also commit to praying for the members going, the communities they will be serving, and all the people they will encounter!

# Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are	
I'm accountable for	and their action steps are
My memory verse is	

This coming week, I'm praying for: