

Bill Miller

A life verse should be ______.

Is there any **good** that can come out of this?

And we **know** that in all things God works for the **good** of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. *Romans* 8:28

Statement of _____ faith

Promise with a **purpose**

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed** to the image of his **Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. *Romans* 8:29

God's purpose is always to change our character.

Men and women in the Bible were no strangers to <u>adversity</u>

Therefore, **in order** to keep me from becoming conceited, I was **given** a **thorn** in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 2 *Corinthians* 12:7

Paul prayed .

Three times I **pleaded** with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will **boast** all the more **gladly** about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why for Christ's sake, I **delight** in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. *2 Corinthians 12:8-10*

Our perspective must change when our circumstances don't.

"Character always trumps circumstances." - Bill Miller

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

| ONE YEAR NEW TESTAMENT | SUNDAY Acts 17:1-34 | MONDAY Acts 18:1-22 | TUESDAY Acts 18:23-19:12 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| this week | june 26 | june 27 | june 28 |
| WEDNESDAY Acts 19:13-41 | THURSDAY Acts 20:1-38 | FRIDAY Acts 21:1-14 | SATURDAY Acts 21:15-36 |
| june 29 | june 30 | july 1 | july 2 |
| WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE Romans 8:28 | | | |

Audio and video messages are available at eclife.org under "RECENT MESSAGE" on the home page.





For Group Discussion

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

Check-in

Last Week's Action Step

From the information we discussed the last time we met, what did you apply to your life in a practical way?

Introduction

We all face difficulties in life – situations and circumstances that make us wonder if there is any good that could come out of it. Even the characters from the Bible had no shortage of adversity in their lives, but with the right perspective they were able to lean into God's promises and seek His purpose.

Discussion Questions

1. What would you consider to be the most difficult situation you have ever faced? What was your general attitude during that time? How did it affect your behavior or shape your faith?

2. Read 2 Corinthians 12:6-10 and Romans 8:28-29. How do you think Paul was able to endure his hardship but boast and delight in it?

Think back to when you were facing your most difficult situation. If you believe God could have removed "your thorn," but chose not to, what character trait of Christ might He have been trying to develop in you?

3. Read Romans 8:16-18. Do you know someone who has suffered but approached it as a gift from God? How did their example affect you?

Small Group Questions Continued

4. You have the option of changing your perspective in order to view difficult circumstances as a gift from God – to lean into His promises and seek His purpose. What are some practical steps you can begin to do when you are in the middle of adversity that will remind you to take the proper perspective? What ways can this group begin to step in to help each other when difficulties arise? What ways could you step in to help ease someone else's pain?

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:

Outreach: Groups in Action

OUR CHURCH

Our children's ministry is in need of volunteers for the 11:15am service at all 3 campuses. We also need subs when our regular volunteers are gone or on vacation. Email Dallas Havens if you are interested or for more information at *dhavens@eclife.org*.

OUR COMMUNITY

In honor of those who have served to protect our freedom, and as we approach Independence Day, write a letter to a soldier who is currently serving or a veteran who has previously served. These letters could be delivered to a soldier or veteran you know or can be dropped off at the Outreach or Information counters at each campus to be mailed together as a church.

OUR WORLD

Thank you for praying for the Emmanuel team that just returned from Colombia. Continue to pray for Exodo church, our mission partner serving the communities in and around Cartagena, Colombia.

