

It's supposed to be \_\_\_\_ easy \_\_\_\_.

*"Fortunately, problems are an everyday part of our life. Consider this: If there were no problems, most of us would be unemployed."*  
– Zig Ziglar

All the Israelites **grumbled** against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness!" *Numbers 14:2*

\_\_\_\_ Jesus \_\_\_\_ had problems.

*John 7:1*

"In this world you will have **trouble**." *John 16:33*

\_\_\_\_ Paul \_\_\_\_ had problems.

In fact, **everyone** who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. *2 Timothy 3:12*

Always be full of **joy** in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!  
*Philippians 4:4*

Problems grow your \_\_\_\_ character \_\_\_\_.

Dear brothers and sisters, when **troubles** come your way, consider it an opportunity for great **joy**. For you know that when your faith is tested, your **endurance** has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be **perfect** and **complete**, needing nothing. *James 1:2-4*

*"If the flight patterns are going to have incredible demands on maneuverability with high speeds, the "integrity" of the material has to be of a certain kind so as not to come apart with those tricky moves."* — Henry Cloud

Problems grow your \_\_\_\_ faith \_\_\_\_.

So be truly **glad**. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being **tested** as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith **remains** strong through many trials, it will bring you much **praise** and **glory** and **honor** on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. *1 Peter 1:6-7*

*"Pain is inevitable. Suffering is optional."* – Haruki Murakami

How will you choose to think about your problems?

## One Year New Testament Devotionals

Small group discussion questions related to the weekend message will resume the week of April 7, during our next 10-week group semester. Until then, use these One Year New Testament questions to discuss with your small group or answer individually.

### Sunday, March 17 // Read Luke 2:36-52

*Submission Isn't Easy*

Even Jesus, the wisest being to walk the planet, learned to submit to his silly parents who didn't understand why he was teaching. It's difficult when we get to the age where you realize that your parents aren't perfect. Put yourself in Jesus' shoes. He was God in human flesh. Even though Jesus was actually superior to his parents, he chose to submit to them. We all have people we are called to submit to, e.g., parents, bosses, teacher, parole officer, etc. Who do you have trouble submitting to and how can you produce the humility necessary to do so?

### Monday, March 18 // Read Luke 3:1-22

*The King is Coming*

In ancient times, when a king visited a city, a herald would go before him to announce the king would be arriving soon. This would most likely prompt the city to get ready for his arrival by cleaning up, sweeping the streets, picking up the garbage, rounding up the criminals, and fixing the buildings. John the Baptist was the herald for the coming of our king, Jesus Christ, and he was an example for helping others get ready to meet Jesus. In what ways are you prioritizing the mission of helping others get ready to meet the king, Jesus Christ?

### Tuesday, March 19 // Read Luke 3:23-38

*Your Family Tree*

The Bible is full of genealogies, and they tell the story of God's faithfulness from generation to generation. In Luke 3:23, Jesus, the Son of God, enters into human history and all the recorded genealogies of the Bible abruptly stop. These records stop because our connection to God is no longer our human ancestry, but through Jesus. When we trust in Christ, we are connected to God and become part of his family. God's love is based on position, not performance. How can you rest in your position as his child today?

### Wednesday, March 20 // Read Luke 4:1-30

*Into the Wilderness*

Jesus has just been baptized by John in the Jordan River, and what does the Holy Spirit do? Leads him into the wilderness. This place was called Jeshimmon, which means "The Devastation." We all experience periods of devastation in our own life. For Jesus, overcoming this wilderness was his final step before beginning his public ministry. He showed he was able to overcome Satan's attempts of devastation by standing on the Word of God against Satan's lies. What wilderness do you find yourself in, and how could God be allowing this to accomplish the work he has prepared for you?

### Thursday, March 21 // Read Luke 4:31-5:11

*A Powerful Speaker*

Unlike the great speakers throughout human history, Jesus was more than just a gifted teacher. Luke says the crowd was "amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority... With authority and power, he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!" In Luke 4:34, demons cry out in fear at the sound of his voice. What powerful words from Jesus will you allow to impact and change you today?

### Friday, March 22 // Read Luke 5:12-28

*Withdraw*

Jesus had begun his public ministry and had literally thousands of people attempting to hear his teaching. What a demand! Most of us would kill to have such a high demand on our lives, which generally leads to the temptation of busyness. Jesus knew that he was going to be most effective for building God's kingdom if he took time to withdraw from the crowds and spend time with his Father, God. How can you prioritize spending regular time alone with God and get away from busyness?

### Saturday, March 23 // Read Luke 5:29-6:11

*Be Taught*

"I don't know why you go to church." All of us have had one motive or another at times. Whatever your reason, be encouraged to be the man with the withered hand. He wasn't perfect, and that's okay. He wasn't looking to get anything from Jesus. He just wanted to be taught. You have your blemishes, problems, struggles, and sin. You're not perfect, and that's okay. Just position yourself to learn from Jesus. How will you continue to position your heart and mind to be taught by Jesus today?