

UNSHAKABLE

WEEK 3
FOR YOUR GROWTH
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SG | Small Groups

Group Prep

Please read James 1:2-8 and then answer the following discussion questions prior to your small group meeting.

Introduction

William Arthur Ward said, "Adversity causes some people to break; others to break records." The difference is in our perspective. The wrong perspective leads to pain and heartache; the right perspective leads to an unshakable life. So, how do we gain the right perspective?

Discussion Questions

1. What is perspective? Share the perspectives, lessons, or thought processes you've gained over the years that have impacted who you are today. What's your default perspective when you experience trials?

2. Read James 1:2-4. How is joy different from happiness? What does it mean to have your faith tested? In what way is your faith currently being tested? How does the testing of our faith grow our endurance? In verse 4, what does James mean when he says, "When your endurance is fully developed, you'll be complete and needing nothing?" How is it possible to "consider joy" when we face trials?

Read James 1:5-8. When facing trials, James encourages us to seek God's wisdom. How do wisdom and perspective relate to each other? Why is it so hard to maintain the perspective that trials are good for our spiritual growth?

3. What is God up to when He allows adversity into our lives? Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. How can the right perspective produce spiritual growth that extends beyond ourselves? What's the alternative to using your trial for the benefit of others?

If possible, share a trial you've faced and the positive, life-altering perspective you gained from it. How have you been able to bless others through that experience?

4. Read 2 Corinthians 4:17-18. What trials are you currently facing? What needs to change in your perspective? How do you think God could use this trial in the future? How can you do a better job maintaining this perspective so you live an unshakable life?

My action step is _____.

I will encourage and pray for _____ to follow through, and their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I'm praying for _____.

Outreach: Groups in Action

On March 18, Emmanuel will be partnering with Pack Away Hunger to pack over 100,000 meals in the Greenwood Campus Fieldhouse. These meals will be distributed through our local global mission partners to families and orphans in Haiti, Nicaragua, Colombia and Rwanda, as well as through our local ministry partners. Register for a time slot by texting the word PACK to 65248.

Bring a package of diapers to Pack Away Hunger on March 18 for Love One. These packages will help support families who foster children in need.

If you like to walk/run and desire to help out our local nonprofit partner, The Refuge, register for the "Rock the Block" run as a group, family, or individual on April 21. Go to rocktheblockrun.org and select The Refuge. There is a discount for an entire group!

"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" *John 9:2*

Take the right perspective.

"Adversity causes some men to break; others to break records."
— William Arthur Ward

The difficulty is for your growth.

1. Internal growth

"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved." — Helen Keller

Joy

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great **joy**. *James 1:2*

"...the joy of the Lord is your **strength!**" *Nehemiah 8:10*

Faith

For you know that when your **faith** is tested... *James 1:3*

And it is impossible to please God without **faith**. *Hebrews 11:6*

In fact, we expected to **die**. But as a result, we stopped relying on **ourselves** and learned to rely only on **God**, who raises the dead. *2 Corinthians 1:9*

Endurance

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 1:3-4*

"It seems to us all unnecessary: but that is because we have not yet had the slightest notion of the tremendous thing He means to make of us." — C.S. Lewis

2. External growth

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who **comforts us** in all our **troubles**, so that we can comfort **those** in any **trouble** with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. *2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

What **perspective** will you take?