

I know when I first accepted Christ as my Savior, I expected less trouble in my life; more security in my job; an even stronger relationship with my wife; and the hope of children. But Jesus told his disciples during the Last Supper, "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
[John 16:33]

God has clearly blessed my family and myself. However, everyone will go through trials in this fallen world. It's more a question of how you will react and who you will turn to when trouble comes. Our response also provides an opportunity to witness to others.

Getting to Know You

1. What is the worst pain you ever experienced?
What helped you endure that pain?

2. Did you ever lose your job? Were you out of work for a long time? Share some of the things you did to keep from getting "down in the dumps."

Into the Bible

1. In this life everyone will suffer at some point. What are the main differences between how a Christian endures suffering and how a non-Christian endures suffering?

2. What does Peter tell his readers to do in the midst of suffering [1 Peter 4:13-16]? Is that how you have responded to trials?

3. What does it mean that judgment begins with God's household, and then for those outside the church [see 1 Peter 4:17]? How does this passage help you to remain faithful in the midst of persecution?

4. What was going through the woman's mind who came up and touched Jesus? [see Mark 5:25-34]. What do you think she had heard about Jesus? Do you have similar motivations in coming to Jesus, and do you approach Him with the same faith?

Taking It Home

1. In what area of your life will you rejoice and trust that God can and will redeem your suffering for His glory alone?

2. Share how God has brought you through the trials in your life and what God taught you. [It is encouraging to others and affirming to yourself.]

