

MAIN POINT

If you can take it, you can make it. Sometimes the trials in our lives make us feel like we have been abandoned by God. But what if our trials are merely opportunities to stretch our faith? What if feeling abandoned by God is His way of showing us that in fact, sometimes He is the only one we need?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

POINT 1: God's Strength in us is enough to overcome trials Romans 5:3-4 In the movie, Louis makes a deal with God. If he gets him out of the mess he was in, if God rescues him, then he said he would devote the rest of his life to serving him. Well, he did get rescued... but not how he thought. Out of the frying pan and into the flames. Describe a time when you pleaded with God to rescue you only to have things get worse. How did you respond?

Read **Job:1 to 2:10** out loud. In the presence of such great pain and hardship, what can you notice about Job that is different than how we might have responded?

What if God allows trials into our lives because he is not so much concerned about our comfort of security but rather is interested in stretching what we think we can endure because that endurance will develop our character?

POINT 2: God's Strength in us is enough to stand up for what is right Galatians 5:16

It's not a mystery that we will encounter hardships. But just as a runner pushes himself to go further in training, just as any athlete pushes through pain so that when it counts... in the middle of the game, he can prevail... do you think maybe that God pushes us, stretches our endurance through trials so that when it counts, and our faith is tested in bigger things, we will prevail? Read John 16:33. Talk with your group about some things that you've gone through that weren't fun, but in hindsight you see God was preparing you for something else.

POINT 3: God's Strength in us is enough to forgive out enemies. Ephesians 4:31-32

We may not have enemies that we need to forgive... it's those we do life with. Who in your life do you need to release that burden of guilt from?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

When the Spirit of God is whispering to us what is right and wrong a lot of times the challenge is not hearing God's voice... it's not ignoring what God is saying.

Talk with your groups about some times in your life when you've felt abandoned by everyone around you.

Did it seem like God had also abandoned you?

