



LIFE GROUP GUIDE

Connection: Check in with your students, maybe highs and lows. **Be sure to check in with them to see how their week went. Find out how many of them spend a half an hour every day praying and reading their bible? Ask them how it went. Did they learn anything?**

Big Idea: In our lives, when things happen outside of our control, we feel like we are facing a battle. Maybe it doesn't feel like a physical battle, but it can be a battle for control, an emotional battle, a relational battle, or a spiritual battle. Stress is the mental, emotional, or physical strain caused by anxiety caused by an external situation. This lesson will help us learn to rely on God in situations beyond our control.

Our Story:

1. What's one thing of spiritual significance that stood out to you from this weeks video?

God's Story:

Genesis 14:12-16

James 1:2-4

Reflection:

1. What is your first reaction when something that is out of your control happens?
2. What types of stressful situations that were out of your control have happened to you in the past? How did you react to those?
3. How has Abrams reactions to stress changed since Chapter 12? (last week)
4. What types of stressful things could you see happening in your future that might be out of your control? How might you react to those things with faith?
5. James says to count it all joy when you meet trials, are you able to do that now? Why, or why not?
6. What types of things are you putting ahead of God that make it hard to count trials as joys?
7. Have you ever met someone who was able to count their trials as joys? Who were they and what were they like?
8. What are some outcomes of being able to count your trials as joy?
9. How might you do to practically begin to count trials as joy this next week?

Living:

Take a piece of paper and write out one thing in your life now or from the past that stressed you out that was out of your control. Next to it write out two things that you COULD be joyful about, it could be an unexpected out come or something God has taught you or simply that it has drawn you closer to God.

Be sure to take time and pray with the students

Next Weeks Scriptures/main idea:

We will be starting a new series on being sacrificially generous:

5/1-Matthew 20:1-16, Ephesians 2:10 and Philippians 2:3- This will be covering how we are called to give up our lives and be sacrificially generous with our time. We will be encouraging students to open their eyes to the good deeds God has planned for them, as well as assessing their motives behind giving up their time.

5/8-Matthew 25:14-30, 1 Peter 4:9-11- We will be talking about how we are called to use the talents God has given us to serve Him. We will be encouraging students to use the talents God has given them for other people.

5/15-Luke 12:13-21, Matthew 6:19-24- We will be discussing what it means to be sacrificially generous with out treasures. Encouraging students to give of their treasures readily.

