

WEEK 5 | *Pivotal Circumstances*

People who are full of faith are also able to identify a pivotal time when God showed up for them.

READ JOHN 16:33

"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."

READ C.S. LEWIS QUOTE

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world." - The Problem of Pain

RESPOND

- 1. Following Jesus takes us places we don't expect. When was a pivotal moment in your own life that felt *disruptive, catalytic, or defining*?
- 2. What goes through your mind when you think about God testing your faith?
- 3. Pastor Billy said, "Fragile, feeble, or unformed faith will not set you up for hope, but for despair." How important do you think testing seasons are when it comes to fueling our faith?
- 4. What do you think we are most tempted to think when we find ourselves in a testing season?

REALITY

Testing seasons produce an enduring faith.

DO THE STUFF: When You Feel Unmotivated in Your Faith

Say these words: Jesus, please strengthen my faith in times when I feel weak. Think this thought: God doesn't test me to fail me, but to fill me with faith. Pray this verse or pick your own promise to memorize:: Lord, you are my refuge and strength. My ever present help in times of trouble. (Ps. 46:1)

PRAY

Before you close your time together, pray specifically for anyone who might feel like they are in a testing or a pivotal season currently. If no one in your group is in that season, thank God for bringing you through pivotal seasons in the past.