

“Christ In Us: Carried Through”

Growth Group Guide

September 28, 2025

WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

Hardships come in many forms, and we can believe they’ve come to us for all sorts of reasons. As Christians, because we are in Christ and since he lives in us, we are supernaturally resilient through the storms in life. Share about a time you knew, felt, experienced God carrying you through a challenge, trial, or difficult season in your life. What did you find in God that comforted, supported, or changed you? Did joy become your friend?

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Read the verse and prayer below. Praise God for He has given you all you need in Christ for any hardship. He carries you through and loves you.

1 Thess. 5:18 (KJV)

In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

Thank You, my gracious and sovereign God, that You have been with me and carried me from the day of my birth until today ... You have known my whole life, from beginning to end ... How glad I am that You’re so good at reaching down and making something beautiful out of even the worst situations! ... I think how You did this for Joseph ... how his brothers hated and abused and betrayed him, and how You worked these things out for blessings, both for Joseph and his family and for countless other people. Lord, I choose to look beyond my past and present troubles in this life—this temporary life—and fix my eyes on the unseen things that will last forever. I praise You for the eternal glory these things are piling up for me as I choose to trust You. *(Meyers, Ruth. 31 Days of Praise, Day 11. Kindle.)

WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. Have you ever been duped into thinking if you lived perfectly, you’d be able to avoid hardship? What was it like living this way?
2. **Read 2 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV).** Where is the “us in Christ” found in these verses? Does this gift feel uncomfortable? Discuss why that might be.
3. When you are found IN something in scripture, you take on the characteristics or nature of the person or thing. “Nature” isn’t something that is earned; it’s you having qualities that are inborn or inherited. How does this understanding speak to the feelings of discomfort from the previous question?
4. Do you struggle to think of yourself as godly? Pause for a moment and consider if deep down you desire the things of God and seek to live godly. If so, that points to your true nature in Christ. How does this cause you to see yourself differently?
5. Share one or two of your favorite promises from scripture. Why are they your favorite? How have they encouraged your walk and faith in God? Isn’t it great that God has already granted those to you?

6. **Read 1 Peter 5:10.** How does knowing we have everything we need in Christ help us to see hardship as an opportunity to grow? What do we learn about God in this verse? In what ways are we grown through hardship in this verse? What specific “in Christ” benefit are we given?
7. **Read Romans 8:28-29.** What is God seeking to ultimately grow us into? What tools is He using to bring this about?
8. **Read Romans 5:3-5.** How does this passage add encouragement to our conversation about hardship benefiting us in Christ?
9. **Read 1 Peter 5:14.** What things in this verse can provide encouragement when we are going through hardship? Which encouragement is specifically an “in Christ” truth?
10. **Read Jude 1-2.** What “in God” and “in Christ” blessings does Jude give us? What additional blessings does he offer? How would knowing these things be helpful in everyday living and in hardship?

WALK *(Living out God’s purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea:** Since we have everything we need in Christ, we can grow even as we go through hardships. Are you in a difficult storm today? As you talk to God about it this week, ask Him to show you how you share in His divine nature. Also, keep these promises in mind: In hardship, Christ is affirmed as our strength and life. In Christ, we have His glory, dignity, and honor. God also uses hardship to improve and equip us, making us fit, stable, strong, and grounded in all we have in Christ. He restores, loves, graces, and holds us firmly in Him as well. Find time this week to: 1) Thank God for his good purposes for your life, especially with hardships. 2) Meditate on your favorite promises from question #6. 3) Ask God to show you where He is working and growing you so you can participate with Him in it. If needed, humbly ask someone to pray for you. He is all you need.

WORLD *(Embracing God’s heart for others)*

*Evergreen Network believes that healthy churches begin with healthy leaders. That’s why their Church Planter Assessment process is one of the most thorough things they do. The assessment process allows leaders to observe their strengths and growth areas, to garner wisdom, and increase the likelihood they will remain healthy leaders and begin new churches with the strongest possible foundation. Take a moment to thank God for the Assessment Team and each of the candidates being assessed each quarter. Pray for the quarterly candidates! Pray for the 4 new churches launching NEXT WEEKEND, October 5th: Odyssey, Society, The Cove, and High Desert Churches. For the leaders and teams behind these new churches, the road to launch has been filled with prayer, preparation, and perseverance. Ask God for provision, wisdom, and endurance as they step forward in this exciting new chapter. “Thank you for your partnership in establishing healthy, multiplying churches in the PNW!”
*(From Aug-Sep 2025 newsletters.)

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