

## **Life Group Questions Honest to God**

### **Rejoicing in Trials – The Promise of Romans 5**

1. Read Romans 5:1–5.

Paul says that we can “glory in our sufferings” because suffering produces perseverance, character, and hope.

- Why do you think this is such a difficult idea for us to embrace?
- What is your natural response when you find yourself in a trial?

2. Pastor Jon made this statement: “Running from adversity is actually running from the goodness of God.” That doesn’t mean God causes every hardship, but that He can redeem what we experience and use it for our good.

- How does this change the way you look at difficult seasons in your life?
- Can you think of a time when God used something difficult to produce something good in you?

3. Read John 16:33 and 1 Peter 4:12–13.

Jesus never promised His followers a trouble-free life. In fact, he said, “In this world you will have trouble.”

- Why is it important for Christians to understand that suffering isn't necessarily evidence that something is wrong with our faith or that God has abandoned us?

4. Romans 5:3–4 gives us a progression: suffering produces perseverance, perseverance produces character, and character produces hope.

- Which part of that process do you find most difficult?
- Why do you think God often uses the process rather than simply removing the trial?

5. It was mentioned in the sermon, “Most of us would love for God to give us perseverance without the struggle, character without the testing, and hope without the waiting.” That’s probably pretty honest for most of us.

- What do you tend to ask God to change first when you’re going through a difficult season? Your circumstances or your heart?
- What might God want to develop in you while you’re waiting for the circumstances to change?

6. Read 2 Corinthians 4:17 and Philippians 1:6.

Paul reminds us that our present troubles are not the end of the story and that God is still completing the work He began in us.

- How can remembering God's bigger picture give us confidence when we can't yet see what He is doing?

7. The sermon ended with this statement: "God didn't just bring you through the trial. He's transforming you because of it."

- If you are currently walking through a difficult season, what might your next step of trust look like?
- If you've come through a difficult season, what did God teach you about Himself, and about yourself, that you might not have learned any other way?