



God is Good

Small Group Work Sheet
May 8, 2011

Part 1 - Ice Breaker

- Share your thoughts about the death of Osama Bin Laden. How do you think Christ wants us to respond? What have been the different responses you have seen in the media and with friends?

Part 2 - Sermon Review

- Have you gone through a long and difficult trial? Share your story with the group.
- Eve believed God's purposes for her were not the absolute best. She believed that she could improve upon God's plan for her life. It is that same doubt in the absolute goodness of God's intentions toward us that is behind many of our sinful choices.
 - In what ways do Christian college students sometimes doubt the goodness of God and try and improve on his plan?
 - In what ways do Christians in your age group doubt the absolute goodness of God for their lives? Where does it lead?
- How does Romans 8:32 assure us that God has good purposes for the lives of his children even when we can't understand them?
- The crucifixion of Christ helps explain the phrase, "*A bad thing that produces a greater good is, in the eyes of God, worthy of His approval.*" Share an example of a bad thing God used to bring about a greater good in your life. How does knowing that change the way you look at your trials?
- The unchangeableness of God's character and purposes provide us comfort in times of trouble. In Malachi 3:6, how did the unchangeableness of God provide comfort for Israel when they failed Him? Does it provide comfort for you when you fail him?
- As a child of God, how does salvation provide us with a rope to hang onto in the most hopeless moments of our lives? (See Romans 8:32)
- The greater the obstacle to overcome, the more glory that goes to the overcomer. God loves to take what is broken beyond repair and conduct a glorious restoration. That is the salvation story. That is the story of Job. That is the story of Joseph. That is the story of the crucifixion and the resurrection. We should expect our lives to be punctuated with trials of deep darkness and stories of God's glorious restoration power in our lives. If God doesn't choose to use his restoration power upon us in this life, he will certainly do so in the next. God desires to be glorified through our great restoration stories. How does knowing this change what you expect from your life as a Christian?
- What is one lesson you do not want to forget from this mini-series on the first 18 verses of James?

Part 3 - Digging Deeper... *Scripture to Memorize to help you with temptations*

Deuteronomy 8:2-5 is part of the Old Testament background James drew upon when he wrote these first 18 verses. From the verses in Deuteronomy, what else can we learn about God's purpose for trials in our life?

Judges 2:21-23 tell us an additional reason God allows us to face trials. What is that reason?