



Notes | April 07, 2024

How Do We Respond to Setbacks and Suffering?

It's not a fun reality to admit that we have experienced setbacks and suffering. It's even *less* fun to know that we'll have future setbacks and suffering. Because of sin, our lives and world are full of brokenness that impact us in seemingly small ways and in more obvious disappointments. However, we have a faithful God who desire to and has the power to redeem our setbacks and suffering when we turn to Him! Our faithfulness in Him can lead us to redemption and joy!

Key Scripture | 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.

Related Scriptures

Romans 8:28, Revelation 21:3b-4, Hebrews 11:16, Hebrews 11:22, Hebrews 11:36-39

Icebreakers:

Q: What's your guilty pleasure TV show, book, or music genre?



Key Thoughts and Reflections:

I. In life, we should expect setbacks and suffering.

Q: Share a story from a time you had a setback in your past. How did it change your life?

Q: Why should you expect setbacks and suffering?

Q: God is the author and allower of our setbacks and sufferings. What does that reveal about His character?

Q: Does knowing God is the author and allower of our setbacks and suffering change your perspective of past or future setbacks and suffering? Why? Why not?

II. In setbacks and suffering, we turn **TO** God instead of **FROM** God.

Q: How was your story of setback redeemed to joy? How did you turn to God in it?

Q: It is impossible for God's plans to be thwarted. In the moment of setback and suffering, is that easy to believe? Why or why not?

Q: John 16:33 says, "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." How does that encourage you to turn **TO** God in future setbacks and sufferings?

Q: If you're in the middle of setback or suffering, how can you turn to God today? How can your Group come alongside you?

Get Practical

We should expect setbacks and suffering in our life. Scripture is story after story of setback and suffering, but the truth of Jesus is that it's followed by redemption and joy. We have faith in our setbacks and suffering because we can to God and He is faithful.