

# FIERY



# DARTS

## Big Idea

Pastor Curt – Part 2

Today we enjoyed part two of our series called **FIERY DARTS**, learning how to survive the attacks when difficult times come at us. The question we should ask ourselves is not “Will I experience a struggle,” but “What do I do when I experience a struggle?” God has a purpose for our pain, but we need to make the right choices, key choices, to take us in the right direction that will bless and benefit us as well as others.

Pastor Curt described the six stages we have when difficult times come: **Shock** (“I can’t believe that happened to me!”), **Sorrow** (which Jesus is uniquely qualified to understand), **Struggle** (“Why God?”), **Surrender** (trust brings peace), **Sanctification** (process of becoming more like Jesus), and **Service** (God has a purpose in difficulties). He then gives us six choices that God wants us to make: **choose to run to God** when a shock happens, **choose to worship** when we have sorrow, **choose to focus on eternity** when we struggle, **choose to trust God** and surrender to His loving plan, **choose to learn** from difficulties so God can make us more like Jesus, and **choose to help others by serving** them during their difficult time.

We can’t control what happens to us but with God’s help we can choose our response. When something is happening to us, God is wanting to do something in us.

## Discussion Questions

- Why do you think God allows us to go through periods of struggle?
- Sometimes we experience struggle because of a bad decision we made. At other times we experience struggle, and we don’t know why. Explain the difference in your reaction based on the source of your struggle. Should there be a difference?
- PC said: “I can’t control what happens to me but with God’s help I can choose my response. Choices lead, feelings follow.” In your current difficult time what response and choice can you make that you need God’s help for?
- The Bible mentions waging war with our minds as the battleground. What can you do to win the battle to control your mind? How can you take captive thoughts that don’t align with God’s Word?

## Prayer Focus

Father God, thank you for being our way out of struggle and into peace. Help us to trust in you wholeheartedly. Help us to be sensitive to the struggles of others, and to be loving and encouraging towards them. Father, there is no one greater than you. No problem we face will ever be too hard for you to solve. We love you! Amen.

## Next Steps

As a group, review the six stages PC described when fiery darts and difficult times come. Discuss a recent difficult time and identify what stage each of you are in now. Help each member decide what next step will move you to the next stage.

## Leader Tip

Think back to a season of struggle that you went through in your past. Share what you did that helped you to receive God’s power to overcome the struggle.