



Leader Conversation Guide – XXVII - Ephesians: Help During Tough Times

Main Idea

This week, Pastor Curt continued our XXVII series with a message from Ephesians, delving into practical guidance for facing tough times with faith and resilience. Life's challenges can often feel overwhelming, whether they're related to relationships, work, health, or personal struggles. However, the Apostle Paul reminds us in Ephesians 3:20 that God "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine." This powerful promise reassures us of God's limitless power and love.

In this discussion, we will explore the significance of not facing life's difficulties alone, the importance of daily surrender to God's will, and the need to control our thoughts to align with His purpose. By nurturing supportive relationships, seeking encouragement, and maintaining a faith-filled mindset, we can navigate our trials with hope and trust in God's plan. Together, we'll reflect on how these biblical truths can be applied in our lives, helping us to stay anchored in God's promises and experience His transformative power.

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us.”

EPHESIANS 3:20

Make It Practical: When you're going through a tough time...

Don't do life alone.

- You may need to: Nurture those important relationships. Restore some broken relationships. Sever harmful relationships. Initiate some meaningful relationships.
- Hebrews 3:13

Each day, remember and surrender.

- Mark 4:35
- What you go through next, is preparing you for your next. What you're going through now, you've already been prepared for.

Don't play the devil's game.

- Your life isn't changed in the doing, your life is changed in the thinking.
- Ecclesiastes 10:2

Rarely is it ever just about you.

- Romans 8:28
- “Isn't this just like Jesus, you see we didn't have to play the game. He already knew the score. All we had to do was put our faith into action and believe.” - M. Wayne Blackburn

Talk About It

- How has God shown His power to do “immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine” in your own life or in the lives of those around you? Can you share a specific instance where you experienced God’s power in a tough situation?
- Proverbs 29:19 and Hebrews 3:13 highlight the significance of relationships and encouragement. How have your relationships with others helped you during tough times? Can you think of a time when someone’s encouragement made a difference in your life?
- Charles Spurgeon’s quote emphasizes trusting God’s heart even when we cannot see His hand at work. How can you practice daily surrender and trust in God’s plan, especially when His actions are not immediately clear to you?

“God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart.” - Charles Spurgeon

Prayer

Father, thank You for the reminder of Your incredible power and love, as revealed in Ephesians. We know You are able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine, and we trust in Your mighty work within us. Holy Spirit, help us to remember that we are never alone in our struggles. Strengthen our relationships and guide us to nurture, restore, or even sever them according to Your will. Each day, may we surrender our hearts to You, finding peace and clarity in Your presence. Guard our thoughts and direct them towards Your truth, knowing that our lives are transformed by the renewing of our minds. As we leave this place, let us carry the assurance of Your love and the encouragement of our community. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Leader Tip

Remind Group Members about Baptisms coming up on Sunday! Is anyone ready to take their Next Step in Baptism? Tell them to stop by Next Steps on Sunday before service, or register online!