

ASKING FOR A "FRIEND"



Leader Conversation Guide – Asking for a Friend: Living through Life's Difficulties

Main Idea

This week, Pastor Curt shared a powerful message on navigating life's difficulties with a perspective grounded in faith. He reminded us that, though challenges are inevitable, God is sovereign over all, as seen in passages like John 16:33 and Job 42:2. Pastor Curt encouraged us to turn to God immediately in times of trouble, lean on our community for support, and trust that God can transform our pain into purpose. With an eternal perspective, we're invited to view our struggles as temporary, knowing our hope and ultimate home are secure in Christ. As we delve deeper into these truths, let's reflect on how to practically embrace God's peace and purpose amid our trials.

**So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on
what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary,
but what is unseen is eternal.**

2 CORINTHIANS 4:18

Make It Practical:

Change your expectations:

- God's Sovereignty: God controls all things (Job 42:2).
- God's Authenticity: He is true to His promises (Psalm 136:1).
- God's Involvement: God works situations for a greater purpose (Genesis 50:20, Romans 8:28).

When you're going through it:

- Turn to God Immediately: Lean on Him in tough times (Psalm 55:22).
- Allow Others into the Situation: Community provides support (Ecclesiastes 4:12, Proverbs 17:17).
- Turn Your Pain into Purpose: Use challenges to grow and serve (Philippians 3:12-14).
- Live with an Eternal Perspective: Focus on heavenly values (1 John 2:17, Philippians 3:20).

Talk About It

Reflecting on God's Sovereignty: Pastor Curt emphasized that "God is sovereign; nothing is out of His control." How does acknowledging God's control over all situations affect the way you view difficulties in your life? Can you share a time when trusting in His sovereignty helped you through a challenge?

Turning Pain into Purpose: In the sermon, we learned the importance of eventually turning pain into purpose. How can you use a current or past struggle to help others or grow spiritually? What steps can you take to start seeing this difficulty as part of God's purpose for you?

Living with an Eternal Perspective: Pastor Curt encouraged us to live with an eternal perspective, keeping in mind that "our citizenship is in heaven." How does this perspective influence your priorities and decisions? What are some practical ways you can focus more on eternal values in your daily life?

When we change our expectations from the reality of this world, and understand that God is doing something deeper, we can learn to live with life's difficulties.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for being with us through every difficulty and for reminding us of Your sovereignty, authenticity, and loving involvement in our lives. Help us to trust You more deeply, to seek Your purpose in our pain, and to live each day with an eternal perspective. Holy Spirit, guide us as we support one another and grow together in faith. We place all our burdens in Your hands, knowing that You work all things for our good. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Leader Tip

Invite someone to join us for one of our Christmas Eve Services! Services will be held on December 23rd and 24th. This is a great opportunity for our loved ones to come and experience the love of Christ as we celebrate His birth.