



# WHAT CAN WE DO WHEN LIFE IS DIFFICULT?

**BIBLE STORY:** Difficult Times (James 1:2-18)

**BIBLE TRUTH:** Through God's power our faith can grow when we face obstacles.

**BIBLE VERSE:** And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing. *James 1:4*

**BONUS VERSE:** Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me. *Psalms 23:4*

God calls us to consider it joy when we suffer. It's one of the many paradoxes we find in Scripture. How do we find joy within hardship? Thankfully the answer to that question is found just a few words later when James says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God – who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly – and it will be given to him" (James 1:5). Perhaps there are many things God asks us to do that don't make sense to us. Thankfully, we can trust that it all makes sense to Him. God doesn't call us to things that are impossible.

Finding joy in sorrow has more to do with a state of being than an emotion. God doesn't say to be happy when we face trials. The joy we possess as believers is deep-seated, and no circumstance or situation can take it away from us. Our joy comes from knowing the One who holds our whole story in His hands. Joy comes from the knowledge that God keeps all of His promises, and He has promised that one day He will wipe away all the tears we have ever wept. Joy is born through hope.

This week share with your child where our hope truly lies. Our hope isn't found in the things of this world. Hope placed in circumstances is a misplaced hope. As we point our children to Christ, we are pointing them to the One who will guide them through the storms of this world. Knowing Him is the only way to experience true and lasting joy.

