**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: Oh, I See Now**

Review the video for this session.

**Engage**

Read [John 9:1–41](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn9.1-41).

**Consider**

We all experience difficult times, though some are harder than others. When this happens, the power of God can be revealed through those situations. People may try to blame their current situation on past sin—theirs or someone else’s. Yes, there are consequences to our sin, but we shouldn’t always think that we are being punished when we go through hard times. Instead, focus on each challenge as an opportunity for God to shine through that situation.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think the disciples asked about the blind man’s past sin? |

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| **QUESTION**Why did the Pharisees so strongly refuse to believe Jesus opened the eyes of this man? |

**Reflect**

Perhaps you’ve been in a situation that has been extremely difficult. As followers of Jesus, we can’t expect life to be easy. As you read through the Bible, you’ll see that even some of the godliest people experienced difficult situations. Jesus wants you to rely on Him when this happens in your life. When you come out on the other side in victory, not only will your faith grow, but Jesus may also reach someone around you who watched you walk through your situation.

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| **QUESTION**How has this story changed the way you will handle the next difficult situation in your life? |

**Activate**

Take time to reread today’s Bible passage. This time, imagine that you’re the man who Jesus healed. Think about each step from his perspective. Think about the emotional highs and lows you might have experienced if you were in this situation.

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| **QUESTION**What’s something you learned by thinking about the story from the healed man’s perspective? |

**Pray**

Dear God, I pray my eyes would always be open to what You are doing in my life. I want to be open to Your power being shown through me, so those around me would see You working. I pray for all those going through a difficult time today. I pray that they would turn to You and have eyes that see You working. Amen.

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**Day 2: Passing the Test**

**Engage**

Read [Job 1:1–20](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Job1.1-20).

**Consider**

The entire Book of Job illustrates that hard times come to even the most righteous of people. Job was a man who loved and lived in obedience to God. Because of this, he was tested to show whether or not he only followed God because his life was good. It was questioned whether or not he would continue to do so during hard times. That was when tragic things started happening to Job. All his possessions were taken away, his children died, and many other terrible things happened.

The chapters that follow are mostly conversations Job had with friends and family. His friends were convinced God was allowing all this to happen to Job because he was a bad person. But Job knew that wasn’t the case. Job’s life gives us a picture of how we must trust God’s plan, even when it doesn’t make sense to us.

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| **QUESTION**How did God describe Job? |

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think God allowed Job to go through all those horrible things? |

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| **QUESTION**How much faith did God show in Job to allow these things to happen? |

**Reflect**

As hard as it can be sometimes, we need to trust God in what He is doing. He may allow some things to happen that we don’t always understand. Instead of blaming our past or God, let’s ask what He may be wanting to teach us.

Though Job never cursed God, he may have wavered back and forth some trying to figure out why God would allow terrible things to happen. It’s normal for us to experience different feelings and questions when tough things come our way. What we need to do is try not to focus on our feelings of uncertainty in the moment, but to remind ourself of the truth of who God is and how His love for us never fails.

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| **QUESTION**What might your reaction have been if what happened to Job took place in your life? |

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| **QUESTION**Do you think God has faith in you when life gets tough? Why or why not? |

**Activate**

If you read the Book of Job, you’ll see that Job’s friends didn’t bring words of encouragement. His friends eventually seemed to make things worse. As you go on with your week, think about your friends. Encourage each friend as they go through a difficult time. Let them know you’re praying for them and that you’re there for them if they need anything.

**Pray**

Heavenly Father, I know Your ways are higher than mine and there are going to be things that happen in my life that I don’t understand. No matter what difficulties come my way, I pray I will trust You and what You’re doing. Help me to see Your plan. I trust You above all else. Amen.

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**Day 3: Trust and Seek**

**Engage**

Read [Proverbs 3:1–8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Pr3.1-8).

**Consider**

The Book of Proverbs is known as a collection of wise teachings. King Solomon, the son of King David and author of this portion of the book, urged the readers to give God 100 percent of their trust and allow Him to direct their steps through life. People have always allowed pride to push them into doing things on their own—thinking they can figure it out. The problem with that is there are so many things that happen outside of our control. Solomon stated that if we seek God, He will point us in the right direction.

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| **QUESTION**What’s the key to living a satisfying life according to King Solomon? |

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| **QUESTION**What do you think it is about people that pushes them to trust themselves more than God? |

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| **QUESTION**What three things should we do to show that we want God to direct our path? |

**Reflect**

We must include God in everything we do. When we do that, we are opening ourself up to His direction for our life. When we try and do things on our own, we are blinding ourself. There is a bigger picture to our situations that God sees, but we don’t. This is why, no matter if things are going well for us or not, we can have a peace that God is directing our life—even if we may not know what lies ahead.

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| **QUESTION**Can you think of a time you tried to figure out a hard situation on your own instead of trusting God with it? |

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| **QUESTION**How can you grow in depending on God as He directs your path? |

**Activate**

Take [Proverbs 3:5–6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Pr3.5-6) and find a creative way to reflect on it often. That may mean writing it on a note card and taping it to your bathroom mirror, creating a graphic and making it your phone’s home and lock screen, or memorizing it. Whatever it takes, this is a word from God worth remembering.

**Pray**

Dear God, I want this passage to be one that is embedded in my heart. As difficult as life can be, please help me to always remember to put 100 percent of my trust in You. Guide me in the paths You have for my life. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 4: Running into Problems**

**Engage**

Read [Romans 5:1–11](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro5.1-11).

**Consider**

Paul wrote this to Christians in Rome to give them a better understanding of the gospel. In these few verses specifically, he focused on the idea that we will run into problems and trials. However, we can rejoice and be glad in the middle of them because they can help us grow. He went on to remind readers about how deeply God loves us. We should be thankful for that love that led Jesus to give His life for us and the privileges this brought. No matter what trials come our way, our attitude toward them can determine who we become in life.

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| **QUESTION**Why is it so hard for people to see the good that can come out of difficult trials? |

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| **QUESTION**How do trials help us in life and in our faith? |

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| **QUESTION**What’s one way we know that God loves us? (See verse [5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro5.5).) |

**Reflect**

What Paul says in this passage is something everyone needs to hear. No matter what comes our way, and no matter how difficult things may be, Jesus can help us through it. And if we walk through difficult times with the mindset Paul expressed here, we will be better followers of Christ. It is through difficult times and trials that we can learn, gain experience, and build endurance in this world. We can then use our growth through trials to help others who may be going through rough times.

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| **QUESTION**How do these verses challenge you to handle trials in the future? |

**Activate**

Make a list of the hardest times you have experienced. Take some time to pray and reflect on what was happening in your life at that time and what the Lord may have been trying to teach you through these trials.

**Pray**

Dear Jesus, I can’t express how grateful I am for the sacrifice You made on the Cross for me. I ask that as I walk through difficult trials during my time here on earth, I may grow in endurance, strength, and character. I want to open my eyes to what You want to do in and through me during those seasons. May this be true for others experiencing a season of trials as well. Amen.

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**Day 5: Weak Doesn’t Make a Freak**

**Engage**

Read [2 Corinthians 12:1–10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Co12.1-10).

**Consider**

Paul expressed his own personal experience with struggles, trials, and suffering in this passage. He shared how multiple times, he had asked the Lord to take one particular challenge away, yet God hadn’t. Through the consistency of this suffering, Paul boasted about the power of Christ. It wasn’t in his own power that he was able to push through, but it was because of Christ in him. He went on to share how God’s grace helped him make it through this life, and that’s why he took pleasure in all the trials he walked through. Each trial pushed him to rely more on Jesus.

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| **QUESTION**How does what Paul said about weakness and strength differ from what many people’s views are? |

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| **QUESTION**What makes this approach to suffering vital in our relationship with Jesus? |

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| **QUESTION**Why was Paul glad to boast in his weaknesses? |

**Reflect**

What Paul told us in this letter to the Corinthians is different from the world’s way of looking at strength and weakness. Many of us may experience suffering and blame God or blame what we have done in our past. Yet, Paul reminded us that trials and suffering are opportunities to trust in the Lord. Jesus should be the first one we turn to in times of need. There is no benefit to blaming God or our past. Instead, we should trust God’s power to help us overcome and learn to rejoice in difficult times.

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| **QUESTION**How do you see the power of God working in your life? |

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| **QUESTION**What stood out to you most during this week’s devotions about experiencing difficult situations? |

**Activate**

Write out your thoughts on this idea that in our weakness, Jesus has made us strong. As you do this, include times you have trusted in the Lord to shine through your life, as well as times you didn’t have that mindset and attitude. Use this as a guide the next time you enter a season of trials and suffering.

**Pray**

Heavenly Father, I want it to always be said that I didn’t take credit for anything good in my life, but that it was from You and You alone. In the same way, I refuse to allow myself to blame You for anything bad that has happened in my life. I will allow Your power to shine when I am weak and in need. All I want is to be a reflection of You to those around me. So, I pray that I can see things the way You see them and acknowledge that Your ways are higher than mine. I put my trust in You, Lord. Amen.