

LET'S DO **Difficult**

A SMALL GROUP STUDY

Session 6: Embrace Difficult

We are given a choice: We can acknowledge life's challenges and face them head-on, or we can complain, retreat, and pretend they don't exist. Choosing avoidance does nothing to change reality. Life is hard. Let us decide instead to meet difficulty with humility, a sincere desire to honor the Lord, a repentant spirit, attentive ears, and a bias toward action. This posture positions our hearts to grow through adversity rather than be shaped by fear or comfort. It allows God to refine our character and deepen our faith in ways that no amount of ease could. When we live this way, the outcome and the legacy we leave behind will be far stronger and far more meaningful.

Scriptures

James 4:6 (NIV®)

"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

James 1:22–25 (NIV®)

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Discussion Questions

1. What does humility look like to you? Share a time when God highlighted humility in your life. How does pride block God's work in us?
2. Who would you consider to be the most humble person you know in your circle of influence? What is it about them that qualifies them for this title? What is a practical way to choose humility in your daily interactions?
3. What do you think it means to have a "repentant attitude"? How would a repentant attitude impact your relationships and decisions? Where do we, as a Church, need to repent? What do you think repentance in this area would look like, sound like, and feel like?
4. Name someone whose faith you admire. What is it about their spiritual walk that you find so appealing or praiseworthy? Do you know their testimony? If not, ask them how they arrived at their current position. What things can you do similarly?
5. Pastor Allen notes that one enemy of undertaking difficult tasks is entitlement. Where do you see expressions of entitlement? Do you suffer from this? How can you rid yourself of this disease of ease?

Going Deeper

1. "Ready, aim, aim, aim ..." Are you guilty of this mentality? Why or why not? If so, what do you think holds you back? If you know others who are guilty of this strategy, what do you think holds them back from taking action? How do we overcome these impediments and proceed?

2. Share an example of a time when you took action, even though you may not have felt 100 percent ready. What happened? How did it turn out?
3. Of the things Pastor Allen mentions as catalysts for embracing the difficult (humility, a commitment to honor the Lord, a repentant attitude, a listening heart, having a heart to serve others), which one comes most naturally to you? Which one is the most difficult?
4. Of the things Pastor Allen mentions as enemies of doing difficult (entitlement, indulgence, failure and fatigue, self-righteousness and criticism, the tyranny of comfort and convenience), which one presents the hardest fight for you? Why?
5. How do we break free from patterns that don't reflect God's best?

Prayer

Take a moment to say the prayer below aloud together. Then, keep it nearby to read on your own throughout the upcoming week.

Heavenly Father, thank You that You care for us. We come before You today with praise! Lord, Your dominion is eternal, and Your Kingdom endures from generation to generation. Thank You that You do what You please and that we can trust Your ways are good. We stand before You now and say that we are ready—we are ready to embrace any challenge that may come our way because we know we stand with You and Your power is greater than any power of this world. Use us, Lord. Use us to grow Your Kingdom and to bring others to a saving faith in You. We praise You! In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer of Deliverance

If you or someone you know is struggling to release and renounce anything in their life, pray this prayer of deliverance aloud.

Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God and the only way to God. I believe You died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead. I come to You now for mercy and forgiveness. I believe You do forgive me and receive me as Your child. Because You receive me, I receive myself as a child of God. Lord, You know the problems I have and the demonic influences that torment me. I want to receive Your deliverance. First of all, I forgive everyone who ever harmed or wronged me. I forgive them all now. (Pause for a moment and quietly name the persons you need to forgive.) I lay down all bitterness, all resentment, all hatred, and all rebellion. I believe You've forgiven me. I thank You for it. I also renounce every contact with Satan, occult powers, secret societies, and anything in Satan's territory. I repent of participating in that territory, and I turn my back on it now. Also, Lord, if there's a curse over my life, I thank You that on the cross You were made a curse that I might be redeemed from any curse and receive Your blessing. I claim that now. Lord, release me from the curse and allow me to enter into Your blessing. Lord, I come against any evil spirit in me that occupies any area of my personality. They are my enemies. I will not make peace with them. I will not compromise with them. They will have no more place in me. I turn against them now, and in the authority of Your name, Jesus, I command them to leave me. I expel them right now in the name of Jesus, amen. Thank You, Lord, for hearing my prayer.



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