



SERMON NOTES

Settling In

Sermon Series • September 13-20

Week 2 (September 20): "How to Persevere in Tough Times"
James 1-5, 12

I. Losing Control

- A. It's human nature to _____ things we don't like.
- B. A question we're all asking "what do we do when there's _____ we can do?"
- C. James was surrounded by _____ and he was responsible for a community in _____.

II. A New Perspective on Trials

- A. Trials expose the authenticity of our _____ in God
- B. Trials automatically exercise our _____.
- C. James says "Let perseverance complete its _____ so that you will be complete."

III. God's Perspective on Trials

- A. God will _____ whatever he chooses not to remove.
- B. God values and uses _____ faith.
- C. Prayer: Heavenly Father, use this until You choose to _____ this.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message

ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

We avoid things we don't like. But sometimes things come our way that we can't avoid. When our circumstances deteriorate, what do we do when there's nothing we can do?

Monday: Job 1 (full chapter)

Job experienced unimaginable tragedies in his life and yet he did not lose faith or confidence in God. Has your faith or confidence in God ever been tested? Did you pass? Did you emerge with your faith intact? If so, why? If not, why?

Tuesday: Matthew 26:47-56

Verse 56 tells us that when Jesus was arrested the disciples deserted him and fled. At this point they no longer believed he was who he said he was. Messiah's don't get arrested and crucified. People don't generally lose faith because of their own suffering. People are more inclined to lose faith because of the suffering of others. Why do you suppose that's the case?

Wednesday: James 1:1-5

In this passage, James gives us advice on how to persevere in tough times. What stands out to you in v.2? Why? In addition to your faith being exercised and strengthened, what other positive outcome might result from your current trial(s)?

Thursday: Luke 21:20-28

Jesus used some frightening images to describe the end times. For those who rely solely on the things of this earth, every natural disaster, market convulsion or act of terror is frightening (verse 26). But Jesus looked beyond them to God's ultimate victory. He said God's people, rather than fearing the things he spoke of, can see them as the dawn of something great. When you see frightening things on the horizon, can you see them as a sign of much better things to come?

Friday: Isaiah 61:1-3, Luke 4:14-21

The Dictionary of Biblical Imagery notes that in Isaiah 61 "ashes symbolize deep sorrow; and the crown, oil, and garment all suggest preparations for joyous festival." When Israel came back from exile, Isaiah's words were partly fulfilled. Do you have confidence that God can bring beauty from the ashes with respect to the Coronavirus pandemic? Does this help you persevere through this difficult time?

MOVING FORWARD

No one likes to go through difficult times, but there is something about difficult times that helps us grow in our faith. James says we should rejoice in our trials because our trials expose the authenticity of our confidence in God and they exercise our faith. So, he tells us to let perseverance complete its work so that you will be complete. Don't rush it. Remember God will use whatever he chooses not to remove. God values and uses persevering faith. This week pray – Heavenly Father, use this (your trials) until you choose to remove this.

Answers to the sermon notes: 1A) avoid, B) nothing, C) crisis. IIA) confidence, B) faith, IIC) work. IIIA) use, B) persevering, C) remove.

90 Day Bible Reading Challenge

“Key Themes” Bible Reading Plan

The ‘key theme’ for this week’s scripture passage is ‘Forgiveness.’ Read the applicable scripture passage for each day below using the ‘SOAP’ method of reading scripture.

Scripture - First read the scripture passage.

Observation - Think about what you just read and find one thing you think God wanted you to hear that’s relevant to your life and write it down.

Application - Think about what you need to do differently as a result of what you just read and write it down.

Pray - Pray about what you just read.

Week of September 20, 2020

Monday: Psalm 25

Tuesday: Psalm 32

Wednesday: Luke 6

Thursday: Acts 10

Friday: Colossians 2

Full Key Themes Plan

	Topic	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
July 13 - July 17	<i>Grace</i>	Ephesians 1	1 Timothy 1	2 Timothy 1	1 Peter 1	1 Peter 5
July 20 - July 24	<i>Judgment</i>	Psalm 9	Isaiah 5	Matthew 23	1 Corinthians 3	1 John 4
July 27 - July 31	<i>Love</i>	Psalm 136	John 15	1 Corinthians 13	1 John 2	1 John 3
Aug 3 - Aug 7	<i>Blood</i>	Leviticus 4	Luke 22	Romans 5	Hebrews 9	Revelation 1
Aug 10 - Aug 14	<i>God’s Name</i>	1 Kings 8	Psalm 113	Isaiah 48	Ezekiel 20	Philippians 2
Aug 17 - Aug 21	<i>Prayer</i>	Psalm 102	Matthew 6	Daniel 9	Luke 18	Revelation 8
Aug 24 - Aug 28	<i>Care for Needy</i>	Leviticus 25	Psalm 10	Psalm 82	2 Corinthians 9	1 Timothy 5
Aug 31 - Sept 4	<i>Worship</i>	Psalm 29	Psalm 100	1 Corinthians 14	1 Timothy 2	Revelation 4
Sept 7 - Sept 11	<i>One Another</i>	John 13	Romans 13	Romans 15	1 Peter 3	1 John 1
Sept 14 - Sept 18	<i>Obedience</i>	Deuteronomy 30	1 Samuel 15	Jeremiah 35	Acts 5	1 Peter 4
Sept 21 - Sept 25	<i>Forgiveness</i>	Psalm 25	Psalm 32	Luke 6	Acts 10	Colossians 2
Sept 28 - Oct 2	<i>Faith</i>	Psalm 116	Romans 3	Romans 4	Galatians 3	Hebrews 11
Oct 5 - Oct 9	<i>Believe</i>	John 6	John 11	John 12	John 20	Romans 10

As developed by LCBC Church. Also available on the YouVersion Bible app and website.