

HOPE

WEEK
THREE

**BELIEVING THAT SOMETHING GOOD
CAN COME OUT OF SOMETHING BAD**

READ ROMANS 5:2-5

DAY 1

When life gets rough, it's hard to imagine that it will ever get better. When you do poorly on another test or miss every shot during tryouts, or argue with a friend, it's hard to believe that the bad stuff won't continue. But when hard things happen, which this verse calls "suffering", good CAN come out of it. Even if the situation doesn't ever get any better. Even if that friend is never nice to you again. Even if you try out again and still don't make the team, God is STILL at work.

God's not working to give you a better jump shot (though He certainly could) and He's not going to make sure you're the most popular kid in school (though He could do that too). That's because God is much more interested in doing something IN you than He is in doing something FOR you. He knows that all the hard things you face make you stronger on the INSIDE, where it really counts. You can have hope because whatever happens, God is still at work.

Read today's verses again and fill in these blanks:

Suffering leads to _____. Strength to _____. Character to _____.

THANK God for working IN you to make you more like Him.

READ ROMANS 8:28

DAY 2

Have you ever baked a batch of chocolate chip cookies with your Mom or Dad? If so, you probably had to gather several different ingredients. Unscramble the words in the ingredient list to the right.

Have you ever tried eating these ingredients before they were baked into a cookie? A spoonful of flour or baking soda is pretty gross! What about chocolate chips or sugar? Not so bad, eh? All of these ingredients are like the events in our lives. Some of these events are awesome and sweet like those chocolate chips. And some are yucky like a spoonful of salt. But when you combine all the ingredients above, you end up with a delicious batch of cookies. The same is true for the things that happen to you.

God is working everything together for good! Every hard thing and every good thing is all a part of His perfect story for your life. So, the next time you face something difficult, think about that chocolate chip cookie. Remember that you can have hope because whatever happens, God is still at work.

ASK God to help you remember that He is working all things together for good.

rlfuo _____
garus _____
tals _____
oolchctea spich _____
gnkiab asod _____
llavina _____

HOPE

WEEK
THREE

**BELIEVING THAT SOMETHING GOOD
CAN COME OUT OF SOMETHING BAD**

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18

DAY 3

Have you ever read the book called "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day?" In the book, Alexander faces all kinds of terrible, no good, very bad things that add up to one pretty awful day. Do you ever have days like that? Days where nothing seems to be going right and you just want to give up?

We *all* have bad days. When bad days come, it's good to remember that our troubles are only temporary. Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, when we believe in Him we get to spend eternity with God. And when we are with God, there are no terrible, horrible, no good, very bad days. Isn't that awesome?

Interview a grown up by asking the following questions.

1. Was there ever a time as a kid that you faced a hard situation?
2. What happened and how did you respond?
3. Did things ever get better? What did you learn from this experience?

LOOK for ways to trust that God is still at work no matter what.

READ ROMANS 12:12

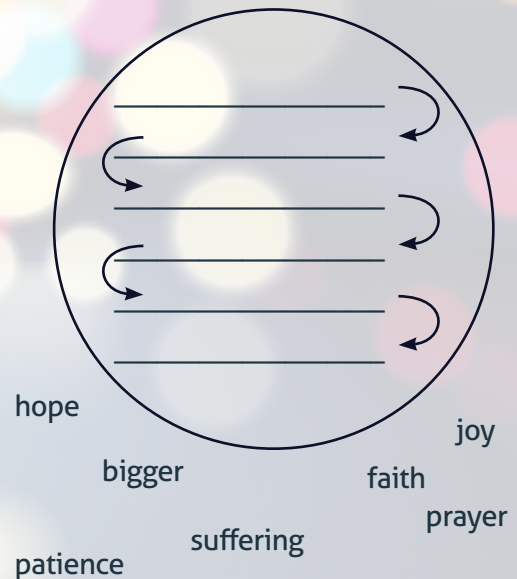
DAY 4

When Jesus died on the cross, the disciples were so sad and confused. They thought that his death was the end. But it wasn't the end! We know the rest of the story. Jesus didn't stay dead. He rose on the third day and beat death once and for all. God was still at work, even when things seemed like they could never get better.

That's hope. Believing that something good can come out of a something bad. Hope can lead to joy! Suffering can lead to patience. And prayer can lead to bigger faith.

Fill in the circle diagram below, starting at the top with the word "Joy". Read the verse for clues to help you fill it out.

KNOW that God wants to make your faith bigger as you put your hope in Him.



whatever
happens,
remember **GOD**
IS STILL AT WORK.