

Triumph Over Trials

1 Thessalonians 3:1-8

Getting Started

Share with the group a "trial" that you overcame.

1. How did you avoid giving up?
2. Who or what helped you overcome?
3. What influence has this had on your approach to other trials?

In the Word (Nehemiah 1:1-11; Isaiah 61:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-8)

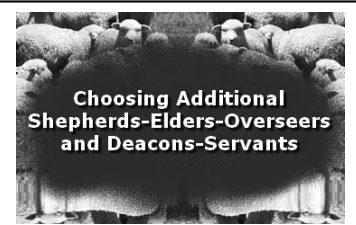
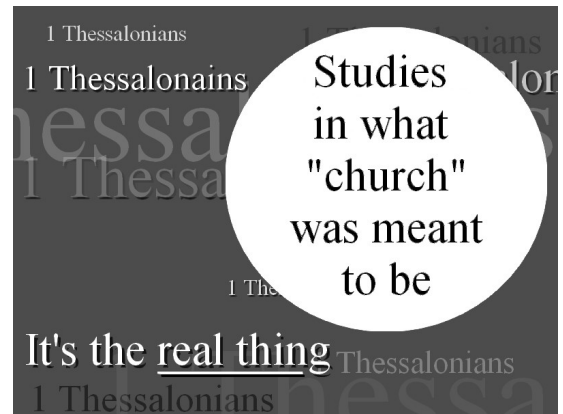
Last week many viewed the movie Amazing Grace. The questions below include references to the movie and touch on many of the themes it introduces. Those who have not seen the movie will find they can still profit from a discussion of most the questions.

1. Nehemiah had a comfortable life in Persia before he heard about the difficulties the Israelites were experiencing in Jerusalem. What do we learn from his reaction to their problems?
2. As you examine Nehemiah's prayer you'll see how personal the plight of those in Jerusalem has become to him. Why do you think he saw things it this way?
3. What was the significance of seeing things as "we" rather than "them"? How does such a shift impact our approach to different issues?
4. When William Wilberforce viewed slavery in England he described it with such words as "dreadful," "irredeemable," and "wicked." Do you think his passion was similar to Nehemiah's? In what ways? How would you describe people like Nehemiah and Wilberforce?
5. Looking at Nehemiah's actions and the words of Isaiah 61:1-3, what kind of heart is required to bring about needed change? How have you observed Christians seeking to bring about change in this world?
6. Paul had told the Thessalonians they should expect trials. Paul then speaks of the good news about their "faith and love." How do Paul and the Thessalonians encourage and strength each other so they can "triumph over trials"? How can we do this today?

Application

1. Before there can be real change in the world there must be a real change in the heart. Is there a way your community group can make a positive impact on the world in the month of February?
2. In tonight's Super Bowl there will be one team that wins—not an individual but a team! Encourage your community group "team" members to join together in the effort you discussed in #1 above.

Grand Central **GCCD** **Community Groups**
Helping people find Jesus Helping believers become disciples



Begin now to pray for our church as we begin the process of seeking out additional shepherds and deacons.



S: 9:30-10:25/5:00 - 7:30

M: 6:00-8:30

Free to All!



1. Pray for God to prepare your heart
2. Pray for God to prepare your friend's heart
3. Invest your life in the life of your friend.
4. Invite your friend to Friend Day