

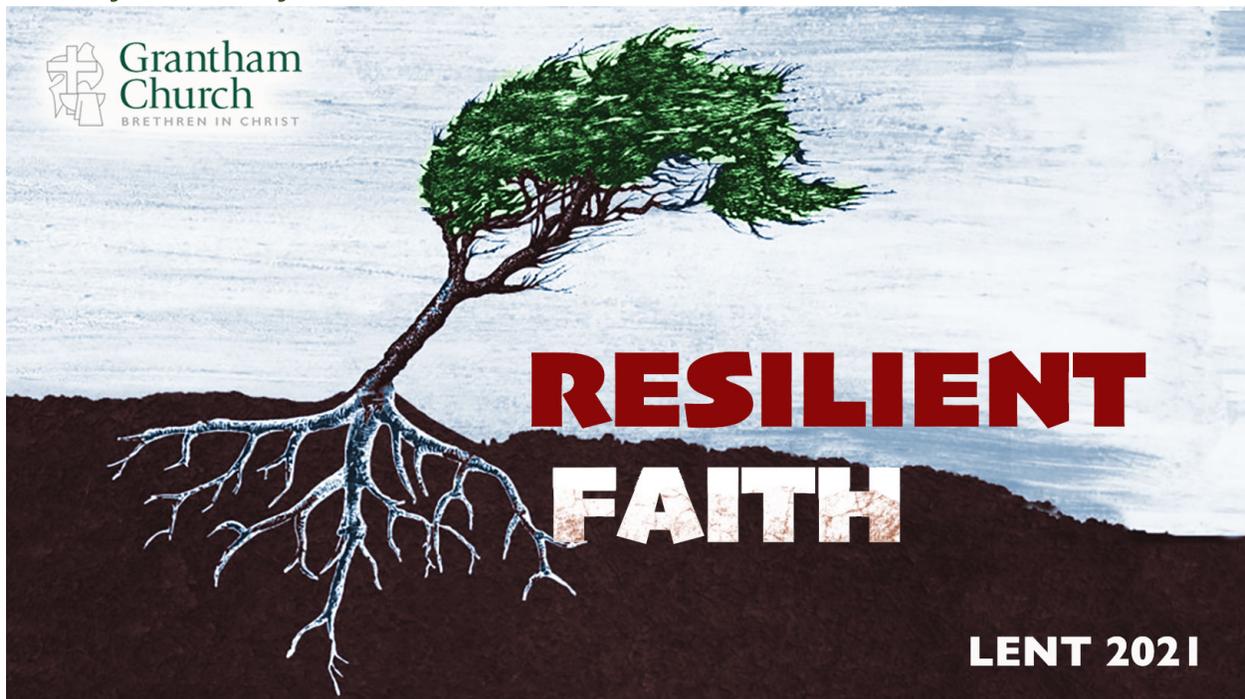
Resilient Faith (1 of 4) Small Group Discussion Questions

SUNDAY WORSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The global pandemic COVID-19 has forced us to adjust and adapt how we do church and stay connected to one another as a congregation. We're not closed as a church, we're just doing church differently! So, please stay connected to the body at Grantham Church. Join our congregation for worship online at 10:30 am each Sunday morning. Follow the worship liturgy and watch our [Vimeo](#) videos at granthamchurch.org/liturgy.

As usual, the sermons will be posted to the [recent sermons page](#) on our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for engaging with us online!

Sunday, February 21st 2021



Sermon Title: Trial Before Triumph

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:9-13; James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-5; 1 Peter 1:6-8

Sermon Focus: If we want to have "resilient" faith, it only comes one way: through the experience of resistance, trials, and challenges. There are several biblical metaphors that describe how God wants to use our trials and times of testing to grow our faith and shape us for his purposes. The *wilderness* is one of them. Listen as Pastor David invites us to embrace our own wilderness in order to thrive on the other side.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call! Use the following questions to guide your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David mentioned that there are biblical metaphors that are used to speak of how God shapes us and our faith through trials and hardships: like metallurgy (purifying gold), forging metals with fire (e.g. a hammer & anvil), or clay in the hands of the potter, and the wilderness. Can you relate to any of these in your own life? Give specific examples from your own faith journey and experience.
2. Read Mark 1:9-13 together. Matthew and Luke say the Spirit “led” Jesus into the wilderness. Notice that Mark says the Spirit “drove” him there. This seems to indicate that the wilderness was necessary, and that Jesus had willingly and wholeheartedly surrendered to God’s will for his life. Have you ever thought of the wilderness as necessary for what God wants to do in your life? Also, what can we learn from Jesus’ example and how he goes into the wilderness?
3. The temptations of Jesus, as well as the rest of the New Testament, reveal that God gives purpose to the trials that we face. While our trials may seem random, or even attacks by the enemy, the Scripture says that they have meaning and we should view them with this purpose: to shape our character, to develop endurance, to create a dependency on the Spirit, and ultimately to build our faith in Christ (James 1:2-4; Rom 5:3-5, 1 Peter 4:12-19). Knowing this, what difference should this make in how we *go through* the trials of life and ministry?
4. Pastor David said, “When God sets you apart to be a leader in any way, whether that’s being the Son of God, a pastor, a board member, a commission chair, or leading a team at your job, attacks from the enemy will come... after all, we’re in a spiritual struggle between good and evil, in the church and in the world. And if you step forward to lead, you’ve just made yourself a target for the enemy and all the “wild animals” he employs and exploits.” How have you seen this?
5. Looking back on the challenges you’ve faced during the pandemic, and having to do life and church differently, share with your group how you see God using it (or wanting to use it) to create in you a *resilient* faith? Give specific examples.
6. After hearing how God is at work in the lives of your group members, close your time in prayer for each other. Lift each other up according to your needs.