

JOB'S RESPONSE: *'The Lord gave me everything I had, and they were His to take away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.'* Job 1:21 LB

JOSEPH'S RESPONSE: *'You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good, to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.'* Genesis 50:20 NIV

MY RESPONSE: Find God's _____ behind the pain.

'This is the reason we never lose heart... These troubles (which are temporary) are winning for us a permanent, glorious, and solid reward out of proportion to our pain.' 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 JBP

'So we don't look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.' 2 Corinthians 4:18 NLT

3. Because God is in control, my prayers have an _____.
'(God)... is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of - infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.'
Ephesians 3:20 LB

'And we can be confident that he will listen to us whenever we ask him for anything in line with his will. And if we know he is listening when we make our requests, we can be sure that he will give us what we ask for.' 1 John 5:14-15 NLT

Questions to reflect on:

1. Plans. Do I _____ God in my plans?

2. Problems. Do I look for God's _____ in my problems?

3. Prayer. Do I take advantage of the _____ of prayer?



1. How do we get the balance between Proverbs 19:21 and Proverbs 16:1?
 - Have you had God change your plans? Give examples.
2. How should we apply Proverbs 16:9 when it comes to making plans in life?
 - How is trusting God one of the signs you are becoming spiritually mature?
 - Planning without prayer is presumption. How should we pray in light of Proverbs 16:9?
3. As we grow in Christ, it's important that we realise that we are not the master of our life, but Christ is. How could we further our understanding of that this week?
4. According to 1 Peter 1:6-7, the things that happen in life are not an accident. In light of that how does that make you feel?
 - If I know God's in control and my plans have a limit and my problems have a purpose, what is my response?
 - What are some ways that we can look past our pain and see God's purpose?
5. When someone we know, or someone in our Life Group is going through a problem, it's important that we offer emotional support. What are some of the things we should and shouldn't say to someone going through a problem? What is the central truth we need to gently remind them of during a problem?
6. How should we pray and approach prayer in light of Ephesians 3:20?
 - Why is prayer never a waste of time?
7. Look at 1 John 5:14-15. How can we understand this verse in the right way and how can this verse be used in the wrong way?
 - Why is worrying a sad reflection of our trust in God?
 - What are some of the things we can do that will ensure that prayer is our first response?

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