



spiritual infant

DISCIPLE ME

THE ONE ABOUT PERSERVERANCE

ICEBREAKER: FELT LIKE FOREVER

Think about something that felt like it took *forever* - maybe a tough workout, a long road trip with kids asking "Are we there yet?", waiting on hold with customer service, sitting through a slow-loading computer update, healing from an injury, a home improvement project or enduring a tough season at work that just wouldn't end.

Share your "this took forever" story. What helped you keep going when you wanted to quit? What did it take for you to stay the course and see it through?

STUDY & DISCUSS: FROM TRIAL TO TRIUMPH

We've all had those moments where time seems to crawl. The clock barely moves, progress feels invisible, and everything in you wants to be *done already*. But those "feels like forever" moments have a way of revealing what's really inside us. They push the boundaries of our expectations, our limits, and sometimes, even our faith.

Perseverance is built in moments like these. Whether it's sitting through a delay, recovering from a setback, or waiting on an answer from God, these seasons test our patience and shape our perspective. The truth is **Faith doesn't grow in the fast lane**. It grows when we stay steady through the slow stretches where we are forced to trust that God is still at work.

When we first start following Jesus, it's easy to assume that faith will make life easier. But Scripture paints a different picture. Read the verses below and talk with your group about what happens when faith and perseverance work hand in hand.

Read Isaiah 40:29-31

- What does it mean for God to "renew your strength"?
- Where are you tempted to rely on your own strength instead of His?

Read Romans 5:3-5

- How have your struggles shaped your character?
- What kind of hope can only be learned through hardship?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

- How can keeping an eternal perspective help you persevere through daily challenges?
- What “inward renewal” have you experienced through tough seasons?

Read Hebrews 12:1-3

- What distractions make it hard to keep your eyes on Jesus?
- How does His endurance encourage you in your own race?

Read Revelation 2:10

- What keeps you motivated to stay faithful when life is hard?
- How does this promise give perspective to your present challenges?

READ: JAMES 1:2-3

James doesn't say *if* you face trials - he says *when*. Hardship isn't an exception to faith; it's part of the journey. But what makes this passage so surprising is the command to *consider it joy*. At first, that sounds unrealistic. How can pain, disappointment, or pressure be something to celebrate? James isn't asking us to enjoy suffering itself. He's pointing us to what suffering *produces*.

When our faith is tested, it's strengthened - like gold refined by fire or a muscle built through resistance. Every test is an invitation to trust God a little more deeply, to depend less on what we can control and more on who He is. Perseverance doesn't mean pretending everything's fine. It means holding on to hope when everything isn't. As followers of Jesus, we believe that endurance isn't wasted - it's shaping us. God uses trials not to break our faith but to build it, developing in us the kind of steady, mature faith that lasts through every season.

- Think about your current struggles and difficulties ... how might God use them to help you grow as you persevere through them?
- What helps you hold on to hope when you can't yet see what God is doing? Is there a verse, habit, or person that keeps your faith steady?

CHALLENGE: ENCOURAGE

This week, look beyond your own struggles and notice someone who's walking through a hard season. Reach out with a simple word of encouragement: a text, a handwritten note, or a prayer shared in person. Let them know they're not alone and that God's story for them isn't finished yet. Offer to pray for them as they try to persevere, reminding them that they are not alone in their struggle.