

STUDY GUIDE

RISK-TAKERS 01.15.2017

*Note to LifeGroup leaders and participants: use what you learned and experienced in the "Living New" study to enhance this guide. What stories can you tell? How can you use post it's and other tools to brainstorm, create helpful lists, guide conversations, and bring application? How can that study enhance your prayer time?

[set up]

What is something from the message last weekend that impacted you?

When have you been through a time of adversity and how did you see God show up?

[digging deeper]

Re-read the "book ends" in the story of Job: Job 1:1-2:10 and Job 42:10-17.

How does Job's story encourage us and give us hope?

What confuses or even frustrates you when you hear about Job's story?

Last Sunday we heard that trusting God when it hurts is risky, but rewarding. Job took a risk by trusting God during a season of great pain. God showed up and rewarded him afterwards. Does God showing up always mean a double blessing on the other side of tribulation? What are other ways God rewards our faithfulness to trust Him when life hurts and/or is hard?

In Job 13:15, Job says, "Though He slay me, I will hope in him..." What does it take to get to the place where a person can trust God to that extent? Why does that kind of faith and trust come unnatural to us?

Why is it hard to trust God when it hurts? Is it ok to be confused, hurt, or even upset with God when we are going through pain and adversity?

What can "snap us back" to a place of trusting God and finding our hope in Him during difficult times?

Here are some additional verses that connect to the theme of adversity and hardship. If you do not have time to read them all, then pick 3-5 of them to read. When it comes to this subject, which one felt most convicting? Which one felt most encouraging?

2 Cor. 4:8-9	James 1:2-4	Prov. 24:10	1 Peter 5:10	Rom. 8:18-21
Rom. 8:28	Ps. 34:19	Lam. 3:22-24	1 Peter 1:6-7	Is. 26:3-4

(Other ones that come to mind?)

Make a list of phrases, even verses, that you can pray when going through adversity. How can you pray those phrases and verses when you intercede for others? How can you pray for unbelievers going through adversity?

[living it out]

What is something that you learned or were reminded of today that you can remember, memorize, and write down to help you with current or future adversity?

Prayer - Spend some time in prayer, praying the phrases from earlier for yourself, your LifeGroup members, and others going through a hard time (your family, friends, church family, and neighbors) that you are feeling burdened for.