

# HOW TO FIND THE GOOD WHEN LIFE IS AT ITS WORST

## WEEKLY ACTION STEP

Text the word "First" to 317-350-1996 to join us on the Faith First Journey.

Choose one of the following forms of worship this week to cry out to God:

Sing it      Discuss it      Write it      Recite it

## BIG IDEA

Cry out to God to find His best in your worst.

## SCRIPTURE

Read aloud Luke 18:1-8; Psalm 69:33; Hebrews 4:16; Romans 8:26-31; Jeremiah 29:11-13

## OPENER

What do you need to cry out to God about today? What is at its worst in your life that you need to give to God so that He can turn it for good?

## QUESTIONS

1. Think of a time when you or someone you know, found the best even when you were faced with the worst. How did that change your outlook? Why do you think God allows time to pass when you're waiting for justice?
2. In Luke 18, Jesus tells the story about a widow persistently asking for assistance. When have you asked God persistently for help in your struggles? What changes in your life do you notice when you continually reach out to God?
3. Do you sometimes doubt that God can pull the best out of you when you're at your worst? Why do you think you have those doubts? What can you do differently to avoid that doubt?
4. Using your study Bible read Hebrews 4:16. Do you feel like you can approach God with that confidence now? Look up the related verses and footnotes from your study Bible to confirm what you need to do or understand to have this confidence when you approach God. Share.
5. Read Luke 18:1-8. In that culture a widow had no right to access the courts, but in her poverty and desperation she still persistently approached the judge. In contrast, as a child of God, you appeal to a throne of grace (Hebrews 4:14) and unlike the poor widow you have full access to all

God's riches to meet your every need (Phil 4:19). What then should you do to access God's plan when your circumstances are dire?

## TAKEAWAYS

Sometimes the only way to find good in your worst is to find God in your worst.

Cry out to God to find His best in your worst:

- Cry out to God persistently. (Luke 18:1-8, Psalm 69:33)
- Cry out to God boldly. (Hebrews 4:16)
- Cry out to God with groans. (Romans 8:26-31)
- Cry out to God believing His end is good. (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

## REFERENCES

Matthew 6:5-13

Luke 11:13

I Thessalonians 5:17

## DIGGING DEEPER

- What did the widow have to believe to keep going back to the earthly judge, and what does that mean regarding what we must believe to petition God? In Luke 18 after Jesus tells us of the importance of being persistent, why do you think He asks the question of whether He will find faith on the earth?
- In the 1st Century, renowned Jewish teacher Hillel and other scholars developed careful methods of logical argumentation in order to arrive at sound conclusions regarding interpretation of the Scriptures. One of those methods was called *Qal va-homer* (literally "light and heavy"), which argued from the lesser to the greater situation and which is often called the "how much more" argument. In other words, if X is the case, how much more would Y be the case. This same pattern is used in Luke 18:1-8 where Jesus compares what would happen with an unjust judge and then asks the question: and will not our just and perfect God bring about true justice for you even more so? See Matthew 7:11; Matthew 12:11-12 and Romans 11:24 and break down the passages into three sections of lesser example, greater example and natural conclusion. How effective is this method of argument in helping you reach a deeper understanding about God?