

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED.

Choosing Hard

The easy path is tempting, but God often does his greatest work on the hard road—where faith, obedience, and courage grow.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you think of a time when you or those around you felt overwhelmed, even though the same situation might have felt easier in previous years? If so, why is it different now?
2. Describe a time when a tension point in your life became the focal point of God's activity. Did it lead to a "persevering faith?"
3. Have you ever felt like you were being hammered by a particular circumstance, only to realize in hindsight that it was forming you? Share your experience.
4. Have you ever asked for wisdom rather than relief? If so, what happened? If not, how could things have been different if you had?
5. Is there an area of your life where you've been hoping or praying for relief, but maybe now it's time to pray for wisdom instead? How can you make that shift?
6. What's one "hard thing" you've been avoiding that you sense God may be inviting you to face with courage? What would it look like to take one small step toward it this week?

Changing Your Mind

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

—James 1:2–4