# small things BIG DIFFERENCE

# Week 9

## Life Group Notes

### Process (what has been taught) - 10 minutes

Read Jeremiah 17:5-8. Briefly discuss the differences between the "cursed" man and the "blessed" man, noticing again that both of them suffer (i.e. he is not cursed because he suffers).

### Prepare (for godliness) - 15 minutes

This week we're be considering the question: "What enables us to keep on trusting in God's faithful love when our lives are stung by suffering?"

- To begin, as group members to triangulate the following Bible passages (this can be done in pairs if suitable). under each triangle members should seek to answer the linked question:

| Passage to triangulate: | Question to answer: What does it mean that your suffering plays a role in how you will …. |
|---|---|
| Romans 5:3-5 | know the love of God poured out in your heart? |
| 1 Peter 1:3-9 | know joy inexpressible and full of glory |
| John 16:33 | know the peace of Jesus Christ |
| James 1:2-5 | become deep and wise |
| 2 Corinthians 1:4 | learn to truly help other people who suffer |

### Practice (of godliness) - 25 minutes

We are going to look at how God's grace enters directly into your suffering. The following questions are for personal reflection rather than open discussion.

In their journals encourage the group to answer one of these question:

1. What is the most significant suffering you experienced in the past?

2. What is the hardest thing you are facing now?

3. What are you afraid you might have to go through someday?

Once they have answered these three questions it's really important to get them apply God's Word to their answers above. Ask the group if anyone is willing to share their answers. As a group discuss what is true about God (use the triangulations above) and what might be the right faith response

Take 10 minutes to allow members to write a A.C.T.S. prayer in their journals.

## Pray (for godliness) - 15 minutes

For the group members that feel open to it, use this time to go around the group and pray the prayers that have just been written above.