



QUIET TIME BIBLE STUDY
"Good and Perfect Gifts"

A Time in the Word - *Begin your workshop with some quiet time in the Word. Answer the questions below.*

1. Read Proverbs 2:1-6. What are some gifts that God gives? These verses seem to suggest that we have a part in "finding" these gifts. What are we to do? How can you pursue God according to these verses?
2. II Peter 1:2 tells of two gifts that are a result of our knowledge of God. What are they?
3. Job is known for the many trials and much suffering in his life. Yet, as the book ends, Job acknowledges that through this journey of suffering, he has received a gift (Job 42:5). What is it? What do you think he means?
4. What promises does God make to us in our tribulation?

Romans 5:3-5

II Corinthians 1:4

Romans 8:28

Romans 8:35-39

II Corinthians 12:9-10

5. If you could lay aside one trial in your life that seems like it is here to stay, what would it be, if you could choose only one? (Some might even call this one's "cross to bear.")

6. Can you think of anything that you have learned (or are learning) in the midst of that trial so far?

7. Read I Peter 1:6-7. Faith is believing in God and what He says in His Word, even when everything around you says otherwise. How is your faith being tested in this trial?

8. Faith brings assurance and the strength to endure. Take time to pray as the disciples prayed in Luke 17:5 "Increase our faith!"

9. Endurance and perseverance in the midst of your trial are also a gift from God. Write James 5:11 here.

A Time to Prayerfully Listen - Consider your trial in question #5. While we often pray for deliverance from the trials in our lives, sometimes we do not take time to listen and seek the Lord regarding His will and purposes in our trial. Take time now to allow God to speak to you in the following areas, and then use the space below to record your response to God.

- ❖ Have you sinned in respect to this trial?
 - Is your trial a consequence for your own sin? Take time to ask for His forgiveness (be specific) and receive the forgiveness and cleansing that He promised to us in I John 1:9.
 - Have you sinned in your response to this trial by being mad at God, sinning by your thoughts or actions, murmuring and complaining, or allowing your thoughts to run rampant? Take time to ask forgiveness for these sins. Consider how you can combat these responses by taking your thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ (II Cor. 10:5).

- ❖ Do you need to forgive another person with respect to this trial, or do you need to ask forgiveness of another person? If possible, do this now, or purpose in your heart to take care of this as soon as possible.

- ❖ Do you need to acknowledge that God in His sovereignty has allowed this trial in your life?

- ❖ Ask God to help you deal with your trial, no matter how long it may last, in a way that pleases Him, as outlined in Psalm 57 and Phil. 4:6-8.

- ❖ Can you pray that God will not only sustain you as you persevere through this trial, but also teach you?

Write down briefly what you have heard from God and how you desire to respond.

A Time for Commitment - *This would be a good time to put yourself and your trial in God's hands.*

I Peter 4:19 says "Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to Him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator." Committing ourselves into God's care should be our constant attitude. This is what Jesus did in the midst of His trials. I Peter 2:23 says that Jesus "who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten; but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously."

Accept that God is sovereign, that nothing is impossible with Him. If He chooses to deliver you immediately from your trial, praise Him, If He chooses to be quiet, wait on Him. If He chooses not to remove your trial immediate, know that there is a good purpose for your trial and He promises to bring you through it.

A Time to Receive God's Promises - *God promises that He has given us "all things that pertain to life and godliness." How? Through the knowledge of Him. He has given "exceedingly great and precious promises" to us to help us on this journey we are on. Each of God's promises is a gift that He gives His children to sustain them. Pray that through His promises, God will help you to truly SEE Him.*

There are three silver boxes in the front. Take a moment to ask Him to speak to you through the promises that you choose. When you are ready, please go pick one promise from each box, and take some tape from one of the tape dispensers. Tape your promises where indicated below.

GOD'S GIFT of GOD'S PRESENCE and GUIDANCE Do you need assurance of God's presence and guidance in the midst of your trial?

GOD'S GIFT of STRENGTH and PEACE Do you need endurance/perseverance in your trial? Do you need His peace?

GOD'S GIFT of HIS ACTING ON YOUR BEHALF Do you want to SEE God in this trial?

Receive those promises. What "gift" is He giving in each of those promises? Accept those promises as His gift to you. And what if you don't pick a promise of complete deliverance or healing? God wants you to see Him in the midst of your trial. Sometimes our focus on what we want can blind us from what God is doing. What a waste it would be if your trial did not serve to draw you closer to your Heavenly Father.

(Tape your promises below)

A Time to Pray for One Another

There will be prayer teams available to pray with you regarding this trial that is on your heart today, or any other specific prayer requests. Feel free to go and receive prayer. *"Confess your trespasses to another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much"* (James 5:16).