

This text gives us for basic principles that will enable to receive the full benefit God intends for us in our trials.

I. Rejoice Over the Opportunity for Gain (2-4)

II. Seek Wisdom from God in Faith (5-8)

III. View Trials as a Leveling Experience (9-11)

IV. Look to the Reward (12)

How to Benefit from Trials Study Guide

1. The message suggested we often view trials as a *hindrance* rather than an opportunity for gain. ***Discuss some struggles you may have had with it and talk about how we can view things from God's perspective, even if it seems impossible.***
2. The first point suggested that trials are an opportunity for gaining what we are lacking to be complete. We may not always see the benefit but ***think back to the trials God has brought you through and discuss ways God delivered you or supplied something you lacked.***
3. Wisdom in trials is at a premium, especially if our sincere desire is to honor Christ in the midst of them. ***How would counsel a brother or sister who is enduring a trial to seek wisdom from God in faith? Why is it important to see wisdom from God as wisdom to be faithful rather than a clear understanding of the circumstances?***
4. Trials also have a tendency to draw out in us what we're truly relying on for strength, comfort, and hope. ***How has the leveling experience of former trials calibrated your focus on the things that are above (Col 3:2)? How can we encourage others in the midst of trials to focus on Christ?***
5. Trials test our faith, and it is important in the midst of them to remember who our God is, and what He has done for us in Christ. ***How can remembering our union with Christ and adoption as sons of God by grace through faith in Him steady us in trials? How does it encourage us to look to the reward and remain steadfast?***