

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. What did God speak to you about most specifically, most powerfully in this lesson?

2. Is there something in your life for which you need perseverance right now? By perseverance, the snail reached Noah's ark. Ask God to fix the eyes of your heart on Jesus.

3. Jesus ventured His all and endured the cross to save us, and now He wants us to venture our all with total abandoned confidence in Him. Are there areas in your life where that faith has not worked in you as yet—places still untouched by the life of Jesus?



Perseverance

WARM-UP

Describe the toughest or most trying situation that you have ever come across. How did you get through that situation?

WORD

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ²Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:1 – 3

There is one gear that we need when running the race marked out for us – PERSEVERANCE. Without this spiritual gear, we will not be able to run and finish the race of life with victory.

Through severe times, we are called to hang on and work deliberately, knowing with assurance and certainty that our great God will never be defeated. Job exemplified perseverance when he said, “¹⁵Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him;” (Job 13:15a). James commended Job for having the faith to persevere.

PRAYER

On the space provided below, record prayer requests and answers to prayers.

As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.
James 5:11

Yes, our Lord is full of compassion and mercy. Our faith in God, our worship, should not be in direct proportion on the blessings we receive, but on who God is. Is God worthy of our worship and service even in times of difficulty? Should we wait for God to bribe us with blessings before we are able to worship and praise Him? As Job modeled for us, let's remain true to God's character whatever He may do or wherever He may lead us to.

Let's look at all the trials Job went through. After God permitted him to bring the trials, the devil knew exactly what areas to attack.

Fortune

Most people are very sensitive as far as their wealth is concerned. Job turned from a hero to a ZERO. Bankrupt! The cattle, the herds, and the crops were all gone. When a situation like this happens to us, do we give up? What would you do?

Hebrews 13:5 tells us *"⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'"* And again in 1 Timothy 6:10, *"¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."*

We should thank the Lord when He wrenches a dangerous thing from our hands. Maybe we could even cooperate a little. If we don't, moths, rust, and thieves will do their job.

Family

It was too close to home. The devil came against his family. All his children and their wives died one day. And the only one left was a nagging wife. So, do we give up and quit on God? Does God really care?

Jesus wept.

John 11:35

John stresses that we have a God who cares. This portrait contrasts with the Greek concept of God that was popular in that day – a God with no emotions and no messy involvement with humans. Here we see many of Jesus' emotions – compassion, indignation, sorrow, even frustration. He often expressed deep emotion, and we must never be afraid to reveal our true feelings to Him. He understands them, for He experienced them. He cares.

When Jesus saw the weeping and wailing, He too wept openly. Jesus showed that He cares enough for us to weep with us even in our sorrow.

Flesh

This was the closest you can get. Just right under your skin! Imagine being in that predicament. Every part of your body is filled with boils. No money for medication, and no family members to console you. Only 'friends' with questionable theology! With this we sometimes lose heart. We are gone.

What can we do in order not to lose heart? Hebrews 12 says we fix our eyes on Jesus. We fix our eyes on Jesus who endured the toughest trial of all. When we fix our eyes on Jesus, we can persevere. We finish strong and do not grow weary and lose heart.

When the Going Gets Severe... Persevere!