

10 LESSONS FOR A LIFE OF SIGNIFICANCE

LESSON 5 // PASS THE CHARACTER TESTS

Big Idea: Moving beyond survival or success to significance in life requires strong character. Charisma may bring you success, but only character will lead to significance!

Success tests your character, but it doesn't have to ruin it if you remember who you are and who God is. Remember that success comes from Him and He wants to use it for His purposes. Also keep in mind that success is fickle and does not define you—character does.

Adversity builds and reveals your character. You will never find significance without the testing and proving of your character through adversity. Trust in God empowers you to navigate these tests well in both adversity and success.

James 1:2-4 (TLB) *Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, ³ for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.*

Discussion Questions:

This weekend we learned that to live a life of significance we need to know and understand how to pass the testing of our character. What part of the message spoke to you the most and why?

If you became extravagantly wealthy overnight, what's the first thing you would do?

How do you typically respond to tests and trials in your life? When things are good who do you talk to first? What about when things are bad?

Read Psalm 23. True success isn't defined by what we do or have but by God alone. What steps can you take to truly start embracing who God says you are?

We are all standing on the shoulders of others. Think of a time you faced success or adversity and handled it well. Who or what helped you handle it well?

Read Genesis 12:2. God didn't bless us just for us. How can you share the blessings God has given you with others in need this week?

Prayer Focus: Lord, help us to be thankful for what we get and generous with what we have. Help us to focus on true spiritual significance, being defined by who you say we are. In Jesus' name, amen.

Leader Tip: Think of all that God has given you (time, treasures, talents) and someone that could benefit from your blessing. Commit to blessing that person this week.