

sermon notes

THRIVING
IN THE THICK OF IT

Lesson 6

Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed--that exhilarating finish in and with God--he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God.

Hebrews 12:2 MSG

"It is finished."

John 19:30 NIV

*Be assured, there is a _____ and
an _____.*

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Then Job replied to the LORD: "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know... My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you."

Job 42:1-5 NIV

✓ *God is _____.*

For everything, absolutely everything—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment.

Colossians 1:16-17 MSG

✓ *God is _____.*

He knows about everyone, everywhere. Everything about us is bare and wide open to the all-seeing eyes of our living God; nothing can be hidden from him.

Hebrews 4:13 TLB

✓ *God is* _____.

“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

Hebrews 13:5-6 NIV

BLESSED ASSURANCE

I am suffering... Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

2 Timothy 1:12 NIV

1. I know that God _____.

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:21-23 NIV

2. I know that God _____.

If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won’t he also give us everything else? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

Romans 8:31-32, 35-37 NLT

3. I know that God _____.

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

4. *I know that God* _____.

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2 Timothy 4:18 NIV

My struggles have a _____ *and my pain has* _____.

Consider and Discuss:

This week, we learned another way to thrive in the thick of it by observing how Jesus handled His worst day. After hours of suffering on the cross, Jesus declared, “It is finished.” While Jesus Himself was not finished, His work on the earth was complete when He defeated the enemy once and for all through His death on the cross. As He recognized His most difficult trail had come to a victorious close, Jesus reminded us that our struggles have purpose and our pain has an end. There may be times when we, like Job, question God and find it difficult to trust Him in the midst of our struggles or feel like He is far away and doesn’t answer when we call to Him. The truth is, if we come to truly know God, we learn to trust Him because He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present. When God is with us, we can face whatever is against us. As we spend time in His presence, we learn that He loves us, He wants the best for us, He has a plan for us, and He will bring us through. God has plans to prosper us - to give us a hope and a future.

When He had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.”

John 19:30 NIV

- Describe a time in your life when you could relate to Job - a time when you questioned God or felt like He was ignoring your prayers in a season of pain. What did you learn through that difficult time?
- Talk about the truth that God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present. How does this truth shape your view of Him? How can this truth help you withstand a season of pain?
- Share a challenging season you’ve been through that taught you one of the following truths: God loves you, He wants the best for you, He has a plan for you, and He will always bring you through. Since that time, how has this truth impacted your perspective in the face of other challenges?

