

Testing & Trials

Do you consider it a joy when your faith is tested? Have you ever been in a testy situation that you celebrated? How long after the fact could you find the joy in the trial?

Consider the graph below as a span of time – each /_____/ represents one year, so the complete graph represents the last 5 years. Using your calendar or the pictures on your phone identify the most troubling trial or test in each of the past 5 years. Write a word to summarize that and write it in the space between the lines /_x_/.

_____/_____/_____/_____/_____

Now that you've been removed from that trial by one year or five, are you able to find joy? Is there still pain? Do the pain and joy become commingled and blended? Is there a point that the joy overcomes the pain?

Perseverance –

How do trials and tribulations produce endurance?

Do we ever really get used to it or do we become numb, uncaring or apathetic?

Complete and Mature (Whole and Having all of your parts)

James tells us trials produce endurance and endurance produces completeness and maturity. What are some synonyms for complete and mature? How do those attributes relate to faith?

What might be the difference between the faith/character of a believer never exposed to trials (if there were such a person) and a believer who had faced many trials and passed the test?

As individuals in a small group, you have been tested and experienced trials – think back to when you first joined the group – how have you changed? How has the group become more mature?

What is FRC learning through this season of testing and trial? How are you doing in your perseverance? Pray for each other to persevere together.