

## DAY 4

# HOW DO YOU REACT WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN?

Grab a clear glass from the kitchen and fill it halfway with water. Walk around the house and poll everyone you see by asking: Is the glass half full or half empty?

**There are a lot of catch phrases about trying to stay positive when things are hard . . .**

**“Is the glass half empty or half full?”**

**“Always look on the bright side of life.”**

**“Where one door closes, another one opens.”**

While some may be more helpful than others, the intention is the same: when we look for the good, we often find it. And for those of us who follow Jesus, it's not an empty promise: remember, He has already overcome death!

After all, bad things will happen; that's just part of life. Sometimes the things that happen to us are complicated and seem confusing.

But in spite of our circumstances, we can have hope that God is working out the details of our life to create something beautiful. We can trust God no matter what.

Having hope means that we believe that God can make something good come out of life's difficult circumstances. God can do amazing things in your life. Have hope that His power can get you through whatever you face.

As you go throughout your day today, if hard things happen, take a pause. Think about how God could make something beautiful out of it. Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.

**God can turn H-A-R-D into H-O-P-E.**

LIVE  
FOR GOD

# HOPE

**BELIEVING THAT SOMETHING GOOD  
CAN COME OUT OF SOMETHING BAD**

## DAY 1

**Read John 11:1-7, 17-43**

Has anything bad ever happened to you? Place two fingers over your wrist. If you feel a pulse, then that means you're alive which also means that at some point you've experienced hard times. We all have! Hope means **believing that something good can come out of something bad.**

Having hope doesn't mean that things will get better right away, or that you won't be sad in the meantime. Check out John 11:33-35 to see how Jesus Himself responded to a hard situation.

**There's a big difference in being sad and in losing hope.**

**Read John 11:40** to see what Jesus promises to those who believe in Him. Underline what He said, or write it here: \_\_\_\_\_

Just like that, Jesus used His power to raise Lazarus from the dead. What seemed a hopeless situation was, in fact, a chance for God to show off His glory. Lazarus would live, and many people would come to believe in Jesus because He displayed His power.

When we have hope despite our circumstances, we too can show others who God is. And when we remember how powerful God is, we can have hope that His power will get us through whatever we're facing.

PRETEEN

HEAR  
FROM GOD

WEEK 1

## DAY 2

Have you ever known someone going through a hard time and you wished you could do something to help, but you didn't know what to do? It may not seem like much to pray for them, but it's actually the best thing you can do! When you pray, you are calling on the One who has all the power in the world.

Make a list of people you know who are going through a hard time. Also on the list, include some of your own struggles and things you need God's help with. Then write out John 16:33b on top of the list.

**“In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.” (NIRV)**

Take some time to pray for each person and situation on your list, but start and end your prayer by reading John 16:33b out loud. Isn't it empowering to know that you're praying to the One who has won the battle over the world?!

## DAY 3

**Have you ever heard the phrase, “Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me?”**

The opposite is actually true—words are extremely powerful and can hurt deeply.

Thankfully, words can also have the power to heal, encourage and give life. That means if you know someone who is going through a hard time, you can use your words to encourage them and remind them that something good can come out of a bad situation.

**Even better, you can use GOD'S words to encourage them. Look up Scripture that speaks of God's power—you can start with this month's memory verse, John 16:33b.**

Think of some creative ways you can share the positive words with your friend. You can text them a memory verse or inspirational quote, or you can hand write them a note with some encouraging words. You can also pick up the phone and call them, or find your friend after school and share your hope-filled words with them. And when you talk with them, be sure and take some time to listen too—letting your friend be the one to talk can even be more helpful to someone who is going through a hard time.