

2011 | | WCC  
 Weekly Sermon/Small Group Series  
 2/20/2011

Small Group Leaders Guide

**A New Year a New You:**  
 A New Prize for Perseverance  
 Jon Ritner

Time		Questions	Answers
10	<b>Hook</b>	<i>Use this question to engage group members in conversation with an introduction question that helps them get to know each other better.</i>	
	1	In the spirit of Jon's intro regarding getting notes of encouragement, when was the last time you got a note of encouragement at just the right time?	<b>Open Answer.</b>
10	<b>Book</b>	<i>Use these questions to set the tone for the study and give group members a background in the text you will be studying.</i>	
	2	Read James 1:2-4. What is your gut reaction to trials? How does James encourage us to react? If we react as James suggests how will we benefit? What would becoming mature, complete and not lacking anything look like for you?	<b>Open. James suggests that we react with joy! If perseverance finishes its work in us we will be made mature and complete not lacking anything! Open.</b>

25	<b>Look</b>	<i>Use these questions as entry points into the passage of scripture.</i>	
	3	<p>What is the literal meaning of the Greek word, hupomeno, to persevere? Ask someone to read the letter to the Philadelphians. What are the three sources of encouragement to persevere found in this letter? What are the 5 promises Jesus makes to these people in their trials?</p> <p><b>To remain under something. “Perseverance is the choice to stay under a difficult circumstance that God is allowing over our life to change our character.”</b>  <b>Power of Jesus, Presence of Jesus and Promises of Jesus.</b>  <b>Look for the 6 I will statements. (The first 2 apply to 1 promise)</b></p>	
	4	<p>Ask someone to read Isaiah 22, beginning in verse 17. What is the significance of the Key of David? Why is it being given to Eliakim? To what doors does Jesus have the keys? (See Rev 1:18 as well)</p> <p><b>It signified access to the King and the Kingdom. The old steward had not been faithful and so he was being replaced. Eliakim foreshadowed Jesus Christ who would be the ultimate keyholder, or Door to God (see John 10 and John 14)</b></p>	
	5	<p>Read Hebrews 10:23-25 and 36-39. Why can be it hard to actually be encouraged by promises of God? What promise does the author make regarding the promises of God?</p> <p><b>We have to wait for promises to be fulfilled. The encouragement is knowing that God will do something in the future, but not necessarily now. If we wait for them with perseverance, God will fulfill them in our lives.</b></p>	
	6	<p>Read the parable of the 4 Soils in Luke 8:1-13. What keeps people from persevering? What is the proof of perseverance in this parable? What is another word for the plant that perseveres to the point of bringing fruit?</p> <p><b>The temptations of the world, worries of life, Satan’s influence, times of testing lead people to quit. A persevering plant is a mature plant. (see James 1)</b></p>	
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15	<b>Take</b>	Use these questions to help the group take the meaning and apply it to their lives in tangible ways. Applications can be cognitive (change my thinking), behavioral (change my actions), or emotional (change my feelings). Be sure to turn these applications into prayer requests for the upcoming week as you close the study.	
	9	How does it challenge you to think that only 1 in 4 Christians persevere to the point of maturity in Luke 8?	<b>Open.</b>
	10	What things can we incorporate into our plan to persevere?	<b>Open.</b>
	11	What are the biggest trials for you to persevere through right now? How have you been tempted to escape or quit them?	<b>Open.</b>
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<b><u>Pray</u></b>	Father, we pray to be willing servants who persevere. Help us also to be joyful in the midst of trials. Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil. We pray for your provision. Be with staff member Troy Braswell and healing for him. Amen	
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