

The Blessing

PART 3: THE TESTING

INTRODUCTION

Life can be hard at times. We've all gone through difficult seasons. In those seasons, what voices do you hear? Perhaps you hear, "you can't do that" or "you're not good enough." Or maybe you pull yourself up and say "I've got this." What if you could determine the voices you hear in those hard times?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What song gets stuck in your head whenever you hear it?
2. Who has been a trusted voice in your life? What have they said to encourage you in a hard time that's stuck with you over the years?
3. Which of these do you find *yourself* saying in difficult times?
 - I think I can.
 - Let it go.
 - One more day.
 - Why me?
 - Never give up.
 - Am I strong enough?
 - No pain. No gain.
 - This is never going to end.
 - Just do it.
4. There are some common areas of testing in life: identity, emotional security, and achievement/success. Which of those have you experienced as challenging most recently?
5. How would the difficult times in your life be different if you were to say, "Jesus says I am. Jesus says I can." Share a situation where this may be helpful for you to remember.
6. Identify someone who needs to hear the blessing in their life. How can you be that trusted voice for them?

MOVING FORWARD

We cannot control what difficulties may come our way. But we can control what we choose to believe is true about us. When we receive God's blessing over our lives here and now, it can shape future moments and change the trajectory of lives and the lives of those around us.

WEEKLY READING

This week memorize Matthew 3:17 and remember The Blessing.