

## **Tips for Facilitators – Lesson 3**

These tips are suggestions based on some ideas and approaches that proved useful and effective for the authors. Each Bible Study group is different. Feel free to use your own approaches as the Lord lays them on your heart.

Keep in mind that the times we've shown for the reviews can vary between small groups.

### PRACTICAL APPLICATION REVIEW (5-10 minutes)

- Review ABCs of trials (from last lesson's Tips). Write A, B, and C on the board. Ask the group what they stand for. Ask if they can remember a Scripture associated with each. If they can't, then review the Scriptures presented with the ABCs in Lesson 2, "Tips for Facilitators." When that is done, write D on the board. Ask about that. Create discussion.
- Was anyone able to remember to apply the ABCs of trials during the week? If so, ask generally how that went for them. It isn't important for people to share how many or any details *unless they want*. The point is to see if folks were aware or remembered to try.
- God's Spirit seeks to assist us in trials. He doesn't speak to us of Himself, but of how to follow Christ during the trial (John 16:14-15). Christ receives all credit because He secured the permanent presence of God's Spirit in us (John 14:16).
- It is important to discern Satan's ATTACKs, to discern what we must change in us to BOND with the Lord and experience peace in a trial, and to discern what action the Lord wants us to COMPLETE in response to the attack. When we discern these aspects of trials and experience the peace of Christ during the trial, then we are doing so by the power of God's Spirit and His counsel to our hearts – again, all glory goes to the Lord!
- Remind all that a good prayer request is to ask the Lord for assistance as we seek to discern these things about our own real-life trials.

### REVIEW CONCEPT OF TRIALS, LEARNING AND DISCIPLINE (5-10 minutes)

- Have someone read Hebrews 12:4-11.
- Trials are times when the Lord seeks to discipline us to learn and grow.
- Being trained in trials (Hebrews 12:11) hinges on B – Bonding with the Lord in the trial.
- Change is required to Bond with the Lord in the heart because when we change something in us, we are demonstrating to the Lord that we "get it...," i.e., we get what He is trying to teach us and we embrace it.
- Embracing change during trials is not just a New Testament concept – this is what Cain's trial shows us.

### REVIEW THE READ AHEAD

- Ask people to share any insights or observations they had from the read-ahead.
- The Bible doesn't specify why Cain's trial was rejected. Be careful not to get sidetracked on trying to hypothesize why that is. While the Bible isn't very specific about

that, the Bible is specific on detailing the relationship between transforming the heart and mastering sin. This is the focus of the Poieological study.

- The point in this particular kind of study (a study of doership, or Poieology) is to connect with the idea that we have to transform our hearts in order to be trained and to grow in trials. Like Cain, we too might experience times when the Lord rejects what we are doing because He has something different He desires from us. The question is can we recognize when the Lord might be rejecting something we have done, so we can embrace what He would have us do instead.
- Regardless of how clearly we might see some issue or problem in a trial, if our hearts are disturbed, then the Lord is trying to discipline us to change or embrace something more in ourselves. The goal is to try to seek that out – again, this is involved in B – Bonding.

### IDENTIFYING HEART DISTURBANCES (HD)

- Before listening to the AUDIO, remind everyone that while we may not murder in response to our trials like Cain did, Satan still tempts us to sin. In discerning our heart disturbances, we are better able to discern the temptation. Remind participants not to dismiss the challenge of putting themselves in Cain's shoes just because *he* murdered. Each participant should look for how their old self might want to act if they felt God was rejecting their sacrifice. Participants should focus on what heart disturbances come up for them based on the scenarios described in the AUDIO.

### OBSERVATIONS PART OF THE LESSON

- Go around the room and have each person share one of their heart disturbances. Write them on a chalkboard or butcher paper.
- Handle the 2<sup>nd</sup> OBSERVATION (the “what do you think God would you have to change in you to be at peace” observation), just like you did for Lesson 1 and 2. When a person states the change they would have to make, you can ask, “So, if you changed your \_\_\_, then could you be in the trial with all things being as they are, but be at peace in God?” (They should answer yes. If not, then they haven’t identified the full change they’d need to make. There might be something else they’d need to change in them – challenge them to discern that with their heart.)
- Reiterate that transforming the HD to peace is fulfilling Colossians 3:15; Philippians 4:7. Transforming the HD to peace is the key in Ephesians 4:26-27.

### PRACTICAL APPLICATION TO WORK ON AFTER THE LESSON

- Again, challenge participants try to remember the ABCs when they encounter trials in the week.
- As with OBSERVATION 2 (from the Lesson) – challenge them to work to discern what they’d have to change in them to transform their hearts to the peace of Christ (B – Bonding) during a trial. This will renew their minds and center them in Christ so they can discern the action He would have to COMPLETE in response to the trial (C).