

Discussion on "Tribulations" (John 16:33; Acts 14:22)

1. Discuss your expectations regarding the Christian life. How have these changed over time as you have experienced life and studied the Bible?

2. What does Jesus mean by "abundant life" in John 10:10? How might we misunderstand this truth?

3. In what ways have you experienced opposition from the world? Have you experienced persecution, pressure to conform, or the temptation to give in or give up? (Romans 12:2; 1 John 2:15, 16)

4. What are some of the lies that Satan uses to mislead you? (2 Corinthians 10:3-5; 11:3)

5. Read Deuteronomy 8. What are God's purposes in testing you? (Compare John 15:1-5; Hebrews 12:1-14)

6. In what way did Jesus' suffering "perfect" him? (Hebrews 2:10; 5:8,9) How does this truth help you in your difficulties?

**Apply.** Read these passages: 2 Corinthians 12:9, 10; Philippians 3:7-10. Can you affirm these passages or make them your prayer?