

1. Receiving a revelation of the character of God

- a) Romans 8:28-29 What important aspects of God’s character are emphasized by the apostle Paul in his epistle to Christians in Rome?
- b) Paul faced much suffering and many trials, but these were not the focus of his attention. Why?
- c) The apostle John testified that “God is love” (1 John 4:8) and Jesus testified “If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father” (John 14:9). Where do you see the love of God most clearly revealed in Jesus, the incarnated Son of God?
- d) How has God revealed His immeasurable, unfailing love to you?
- e) Why is it especially important to focus on God’s character of love when facing suffering and trials?

2. Praying through times of suffering and trials

- a) John 14:13-14 What does it mean to pray “in the name of Jesus”?
- b) Give some examples of praying in the name of Jesus recorded in the New Testament. Acts 3:6, 16:18, 9:40-42, 16:25, etc.
- c) Why is it vitally important to have a clear revelation of the character of Jesus when we pray in His name?
- d) How might we pray in the name of Jesus when we are enduring times of suffering and trials?

3. Receiving the gift of spiritual sight

- a) What special request did the apostle Paul make in his prayers for Christians in Ephesus? Ephesians 1:15-23
- b) Let’s read Paul’s prayer again and make it personal. “I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give me the spirit of wisdom...” Ephesians 1:17-18
- c) Have you ever prayed a prayer like that before? How can you be certain God wants to answer that prayer, helping you to see beyond the troubles of this life?

4. Letting go of our worries about the present and future

- a) Share something or someone you could easily worry about.
- b) Matthew 6:25-33 What reasons did Jesus give for letting go of our worries about the present and the future?
- c) What counsel did the apostle Peter give that reinforces this teaching of Jesus? 1 Peter 5:6-7
- d) What precious promise did the LORD give through the prophet Isaiah? Isaiah 40:28-31
- e) What other promises of the LORD give you comfort and peace when you are tempted to worry?

