



# FAMILY STUDY

The Separatists

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## "The Separatists"

### Give it all to God

How much time do you spend worrying about the details of life? It's understandable, of course. Our entire lives will be full of troubles and trials; but if we learn to let God help us during these times, life will be so much easier. The truth is that God loves us very much. He doesn't want to see us suffer. He wants to help us in our times of need.

Isaiah 41:10 says "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Yet, some people might say, "If God is such a good and loving God, why does He allow us to go through hard times?" Of course, God sees things that we cannot see. He knows better than anyone what is in our best interests, and God allows trials to come our way because He knows that learning to trust Him during hard times causes our faith to grow stronger. This Family Study explores the reasons why we suffer and how trusting in Jesus can pull us through the hard times. We encourage you to look up the Bible passages referred to in this study and consider the brief comments we have included with each verse. Discuss the Scriptures as a family and see how God can help even you with the troubles you face!

### Why we suffer

The following verses remind us why God allows difficulties to come our way.

- John 15:2 Just like a tree needs to be pruned so it will grow better, we need trials to help us grow in faith.
- Romans 5:3-5 We should rejoice when hard times come our way, because it is preparing us for God.
- 2 Corinthians 4:17 Our future eternal glory far outweighs the trials we face.
- Hebrews 12:11 Even though we don't like trials, they bring us peace and righteousness in the end.
- James 1:2-4 If we persevere through trials, we will be more mature.
- 1 Peter 1:6-7 We may suffer for a time, but it proves our faith true in the end.

### We suffer because of Jesus

Jesus came into the world, and the world hated Him. They persecuted Him and killed Him. The world doesn't want to be reminded of Jesus. The Bible tells us that we will be persecuted because Jesus is a part of our lives.

- Matthew 5:10 Persecution reminds us that our reward is heaven.
- John 15:20 Because Jesus was persecuted, we will be also.
- 2 Timothy 3:12 If we want to follow Jesus, we will be persecuted.

### God will be there through it

Even though we have to go through hard times occasionally, remember God will be there right by our side to help us through it.

- Psalm 23:4 We need not fear death because God is always with us.
- Psalm 27:1 God is our strength and our light in bad times.

- Psalm 46:1-2 God is always there to help when trouble comes.
- Proverbs 3:25-26 God will protect us.
- Isaiah 41:13 God will hold us by the hand and help us.
- Romans 8:35-39 Nothing can separate us from Christ.

### God is still in control

When we are in the middle of rough times, it's hard to believe that God has control of the situation, but He is working it all out for His glory.

- Genesis 50:20 God can turn what others do to you into something beneficial.
- Psalm 37 Don't fret, God is in control.
- Romans 8:28 God makes it all work out for what is best for you.
- Romans 8:36-39 Nothing can separate us from God's love.
- 1 Corinthians 10:13 God will not give us more than we can handle.

### Learning from examples

There are many examples through the Bible and all of history that show us how God's perfect plan worked everything out for the best. Here are a few examples.

- Genesis 37, 39-45 Joseph suffered yet continued to trust. God used his time of suffering to save not only his family from starvation, but a whole nation from starving.
- Exodus 1-14 Israelites in Egypt suffered for 400 years, yet God brought them through and delivered them, showing His might to two nations, Egypt and Israel.
- Acts 5:14-42 The apostles rejoiced that they suffered for Christ. Notice Gamaliel's statement. "If this is from God, nothing can stop it." Now, 2000 years later, Christianity is still strong. Imagine if the apostles had given up when facing persecution. Where would we be now?

### Actions and attitudes

We need to make sure that our attitudes our pleasing to God during times of trial. We also need to keep our walk with Him right during these times.

- Job 11:13-15 If we stay close to God, seek Him, and don't allow sin to rule our lives then we will have nothing to fear.
- Proverbs 1:33 If we listen to God's word we will be safe in Him.
- Proverbs 29:25 We don't need to fear man, God can protect us.
- Mark 4:17 Those who don't follow God closely won't make it through trials.
- 1 Corinthians 10:13 God does not give us more than we can bear.
- Philippians 4:6 Don't be worried, let God handle it.

### Persevere to the end!

Life's trials are difficult to go through, but it helps to remember that God uses these trials to perfect our faith. We grow closer to Him if we keep our hearts and minds pure during these times. The disciples were glad when they were persecuted for being Christians. They knew it meant that they were doing what God wanted them to do. Even though it may not seem like it in the midst of trials, God is in control and is working everything out for the best. If we look to Him and ask for His help during these times, He will give us all the help we need to get through.