

You OTTAGETTU The Point!

JESUS & TOUGH TIMES

Parent Page

Dear Parents,

What teenager doesn't experience tough times? Whether it's the relatively run-of-the-mill relational issues that plague middle and high schooler's, or bigger issues such as divorce, or the death of a loved one, teenagers have their share of struggles. Knowing where to turn in troubled times can be a challenge. How refreshing, then, to know that Jesus spoke extensively on the challenges we face, and how we can bring our cares to God in trying times.

I'm excited to let you know that we will be starting a new 3-week series entitled Jesus & Tough Times. This study will help us teach our students that when they experience tough times, they should express their emotions to God in real, honest ways; that faith in Jesus and His ability to lead them through trials is what will get them through tough times; that Jesus stands ready to offer comfort to them in the midst of their tough times; and that when Jesus ultimately delivers them from tough times, their response should be thankfulness and praise.

I'm looking forward to learning with your teenager what Jesus teaches us about tough times. To prepare to engage with your teenager, think about doing the following:

- Pray for your child each week, and for the others in his or her Tribe.
- Think about some of your struggles and victories in persevering through tough times during your teen years and be ready to share those with your teenager.
- Visit our website at www.thepointym.com and click on [What We're Teaching](#). There you'll find *Weekly Conversation Starters* to help you engage your child about what he or she is learning.
- Consider leading your student to think of a way the two of you can show the love of Christ to others in the form of a ministry action before the series is over.

Thank you for encouraging your student to be involved in these studies. Please let me know if I can answer any questions you may have.



Week 1: The God Who Listens

Main Point: *God wants you to keep it real and tell Him how you really feel.*

Scripture: *Matthew 26:36-46; Hebrews 5:7*

Summary: *In this discussion, we focused on helping students understand that when they experience tough times, they can and should express their emotions to God in real, honest ways.*

1. Do you feel like it is easy or hard to be honest with God about what you're feeling?
2. Do you feel like hearing more about the way Jesus was honest with God was helpful? Why or why not? Tell me more about that.
3. What are you going to do in trying to be more honest with God about the way you are feeling about life?

Week 2: Faith In Tough Times

Main Point: *Your problems won't always go away, but have faith, Jesus will be there with you.*

Scripture: *John 11:1-3; 17-27; 38-44; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18*

Summary: *In this discussion, we focused on helping students see that when they experience tough times, they can and should have faith that Jesus will be with them and even strengthening them through the these times.*

1. This week you talked about how Jesus is with you during the tough times. Do you believe that? Why or why not?
2. Do you believe that Jesus is the one that can help us get through tough times? Why or why not?
3. Part of having faith that Jesus is with you, is trusting in who He is. Do you think you focus on Him or on what He can do for you? What's the difference?

Week 3: Comfort In Tough Times

Main Point: *Tough times will come, but let Jesus carry the load!*

Scripture: *John 14:25-27, John 16:33, Matthew 11:28-30*

Summary: *In this discussion, we focused on helping students learn that God gives us rest and peace beyond anything the world offers in the hard times.*

1. Do you believe God truly wants to comfort us when things are hard?
2. How can we rely on the Lord as our peace during tough times?
3. What does it mean to take up God's "yoke" which is easy and light, so He can carry our burdens?