

BETTER Together

PART 5: *BETTER TOGETHER IN TRIALS* (JOHN & DEBBIE WOODALL)

INTRODUCTION

Everything is “better” when life and relationships are going well. What about when trials, struggles, and pain show up (and they will)? Marriages and close relationships can take a big hit and even end. So what do you do when trials start to separate you and your spouse? Where do you turn when pain is destroying the connection between you and your spouse? Being better together is not being void of troubles, but allowing Jesus to draw you closer through the storms.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read John 16:33. What is the good news about this verse? What is the bad news?
2. Talk about a time in your life when your trials redefined what you thought about God and life.
3. What unrealistic expectations have you put on God?
4. Read Mark 9:20-24. Have you ever felt like the man in the story in the midst of a trial? How did the man respond to his doubts about Jesus? What would it look like for us to imitate that response?
5. What is your natural **reaction** to a trial? (venting, solitude, etc.) How would you like to **respond** in future trials?
6. What are some healthy habits to develop in the midst of a trial? Do you have trial plan?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

- **John 16:33**

So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us. 'If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes." Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

- Mark 9:20-24