

BETTER than EVER

January 3, 2021
“Becoming Better
Through Crisis”

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for walking with us through this difficult season in our lives. Help us to remember that you are still in control when everything seems out of control. And Father, help us to not leap back to our bad habits once this season is over. Help us remember what we are learning through this season and help us to carry it forward to the next. We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

Proverbs 25:28 (ESV)

A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.

Excerpt from *The Problem of Pain* by C.S. Lewis

“At first I am overwhelmed, and all my little happinesses look like broken toys. Then, slowly and reluctantly, bit by bit, I try to bring myself into the frame of mind that I should be in at all times. I remind myself that all these toys were never meant to possess my heart, that my true good is in another world and my only real treasure is Christ... But the moment the threat is withdrawn, my whole nature leaps back to the toys.”



Small Group Study Guide

INTRODUCTION

For many of us, there's something we wish we'd been doing all along to prepare for what is happening now. Whatever lessons we're learning, now is the time to start putting them into practice. Pain without gain would be a shame. There are things we can do in 2021 to make us better financially, relationally, or personally. Going forward we need to decide how we can be better than ever as a result of what we just experienced.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Did you make any New Year's Resolutions for 2021? If not, why not?
- 2) Where have you felt the most pressure during this season? Financially? Relationally? Spiritually? Something else?
- 3) Is there anything you should have been doing that would have better prepared you for what you are currently experiencing?
- 4) Read Proverbs 25:28 on page 1. What stands out to you? Are any of the challenges you're currently facing due to the principle highlighted in this verse?
- 5) In addition to your faith being exercised and strengthened, what other positive outcomes might result from your current trial(s)?

FINAL APPLICATION

Read the quote from C.S. Lewis on page 1. Pray "God, help me to not leap back to the toys. Help me remember what I'm learning through this season and carry it forward to the next."