

Sermon Series: *Growing Useful Character, Part 2*

Message Summary: Resilience is that ineffable quality that allows some people to be knocked down by life and come back stronger than ever. Rather than letting failure or hardship overcome them and drain their resolve, they find a way to **rise from the ashes**. Without resiliency, our faith and following of Jesus will not be strong. It will be sporadic – inconsistent – maybe even temporary. We all know those who have walked away from Jesus. We must **develop a resilient faith**...a faith that can endure whatever this life throws at us. Today we find out HOW?

Resilience to be Useful Overcome What is Hard

- 1. View hard times as opportunities for growing resilience. James 1:3-4**
- 2. Resist thinking that destroys resilience. Hebrews 10:35-36**
- 3. Let go of things that hinder resilience. Hebrews 12:1**
- 4. Make sure you're running God's race not yours. Hebrews 12:1, 2**
- 5. Choose obedience over your feelings. Hebrews 10:36**

LifeGroup Questions:

BEGIN IT- (5 minutes) Praise song & opening prayer.

OPEN IT – (10 minutes) Share any experiences from your past where going through hard times made you more resilient?

EXPLORE IT- (60 minutes) Review Sunday's sermon outline together and add additional notes people made about the message.

1. James 1:3-4 is a tough truth. Discuss the difficulty we have looking at hard times as opportunity for growth. Discuss our tendency to simply ask God to remove it.
2. Discuss the type of thinking that will destroy our resiliency. Do you see yourself struggling with this at times?
3. How do we run our unique life race keeping our eyes on Jesus? What does this look like on a daily basis?

APPLY IT- (15 minutes) What are the things we must be willing to strip off and cast aside so we can develop greater spiritual resiliency following Jesus?