

# Middle School Discussion Guide

*Decoder Glasses Included!: For the week of August 23 - 29, 2020*

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## Main Thought and Scripture:

A long time ago, cereal boxes used to have prizes that were included. One such prize was a set of decoder glasses (google them). They were used to figure out a puzzle on the back of the box. The bible serves as our decoder glasses for our lives, helping us have the right perspective (view) on life. One of the "puzzles" we face is: why do hard times happen to me and/or those around me even when I follow Jesus? The bible verses below explain why and what happens when we are able to push through such times.

*"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first." (John 15:18 NIV)*

*"So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy... 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 16:22,33 NIV)*

*"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Revelations 21:4 NIV)*

Jesus explained that as we follow Him and live out His example in our lives, we would face hard times. The reason being, some people do not agree with what Jesus stood for and hated Him for it. So as we live out His example, we will eventually experience the same. But Jesus also explains that one day we will be with Him in heaven and that our joy will not be taken away! Not only that, but the book of Revelation in the bible says that many good things are promised to those who push through, hold onto Jesus, and live out His example.

## Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the main thought and scriptures above?
- What difficult thing are you currently going through?
- What are some practical things we can do to help get the right perspective from God to face our hard times in life?

## Prayer:

- Pray that we are able to have the right view on life through what the bible says.
- Pray for someone we want to invite that doesn't know Jesus and that they would come to small group or church so they can hear about Jesus and have the right view on life as well.