

Life Apps

Pivotal Circumstances: Faith in Hard Times

Life is full of surprises - some good, some not so good. But each unexpected event that comes our way is actually a divine opportunity. In this installment of Life Apps, we'll discover the role that pivotal circumstances play in the development of our confidence in God. And as a matter of fact, yes, there's an app for that!

James 1:2-4

1. Unpleasant pivotal circumstances happen because _____
_____.
2. Satan leverages trials to _____
_____.
3. God leverages trials to _____
_____.
4. In God's economy, an _____ is more
important than what we would call an _____
_____.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next week
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll pray and ask to see God in my circumstances
- I'll get the app
- I'll use the app to: _____

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper and Going Further

Read John 11:1–53. This is the account of Lazarus’ resurrection. It is one of three accounts in the Gospels when Jesus raised someone from the dead. In the Gospel of John, this is the last miracle Jesus performs and precipitates his being placed on the Most Wanted Hit List by the religious leaders of his day. This is the “crown” of the miracles Jesus performs, which suggests it has the most to teach us.

1. In verse 4, Jesus tells his apostles that Lazarus’ illness would not end in death, and yet Lazarus clearly dies. Why do you think he said this to his apostles? Do you think Jesus was mistaken about Lazarus’ dying?

2. Do you think Jesus was mistaken about Lazarus’ dying? Why or why not?

3. Read John 3:16. What two promises are made to those who believe in Jesus?

4. Read Luke 12:4–7. In this passage, Jesus speaks of killing the body, but he does not speak of death. Why do you think this is?

5. Read John 11:26. The extended passage makes it appear that Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were all believers. In this verse Jesus makes a significant promise, but Jesus said this after Lazarus had died. How can his promise be true of Lazarus?

6. Dr. Bill said that God is more concerned that we have an amazing faith than we have an amazing life. Do you think this story supports that statement? How so?

7. Read 11:41–42. According to Jesus, why did he allow Lazarus to die?

8. How important is it to you to have an amazing faith? What are you doing about it?
