

UNCERTAIN TIMES

James 1:2-4

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

Mark 2:18-22

Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?" Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast. "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins."

Questions:

1. In this uncomfortable season, what areas of life feel uncertain? How can you choose to look upwards in these situations?
2. How should we look at our current situation, when considering James 1?
3. How can we build the Church as we face uncertainty?
4. What would it look like for your church to become courageous?
5. What did you imagine 2020 would look like? How have your plans and goals changed in light of recent events?
6. What does Mark 2 teach us about uncertainty?

CHILDREN'S RESOURCE

Today I am going to tell you a story about a girl called Georgia. Georgia lives in a country called Bangladesh. She is only 12 years old, but she loves Jesus very much. Georgia's mum and dad are both Christians, but lots of other families that live in their neighbourhood don't like Christians.

This made it hard for Georgia and her family to follow God. At school, lots of the other kids didn't want to sit with Georgia because she follows Jesus. Most of the time, during recess and lunch, she didn't have anyone else to play with. Sometimes her teachers would give her bad marks, even if she did her homework correctly. This made her very sad. She knew Jesus loved her, so she couldn't understand why other people didn't want to know Him as well.

Even though other people were mean to her, Georgia still tried to love them and show them that God loved them too. She kept trusting in God. She couldn't talk about Jesus at school, but her family would read the Bible and talk about God every night in their house. Their family loved God and loved each other.

After year 5, Georgia changed to a different school. At this school, Georgia found lots of friends who also loved Jesus. They had also been to schools with people that didn't like Christians, but in this new

school they could all share the love of Jesus with each other. Georgia now gets to read the Bible every day, and each night she does house church with her family. She wants to be a doctor when she grows up.

Questions

- 1 Why couldn't Georgia talk about Jesus at school? (Because people didn't like Jesus and refused to listen) Question
- 2 What did Georgia do? (She kept loving them and trusting in Jesus) Question
- 3 What did Georgia's family do every night? (Read the bible and talk about God) Question
- 4 What happened after Year 5? (Georgia moved to a new school)
- 5 What was different about the new school? (Everyone loved Jesus and wanted to talk about Him)
- 6 In the Bible, what does Jesus say about children? Re-read the passage if needed. (The kingdom of God belongs to children. He blesses the children)
- 7 Is God with us, even if we aren't at church for a while? (Yes! Jesus is with us wherever we go)

Prayer

Spend time thanking Jesus for loving you and always being with you. Pray for Georgia in Bangladesh, that she would also keep loving Jesus. Pray that you can go back to church soon!