

Lesson 10 / November 8, 2020

Making the Best of a Bad Situation

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1

**Lesson 10****Focus:**

We can grow in tough times.

Lesson 10**Bible Basis:**

James 1:1-8, 12; Psalm 32:6-10

Lesson 10**Memory Verse:**

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, the person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.
—James 1:12

Students will look for inspiration to persevere through hard times by hearing stories of international ministry leaders making the best out of difficult situations.

Materials:

None

Begin today's lesson by offering up the following scenario to your class.

You wake up tomorrow to find yourself on a deserted island, alone. You have no food, no supplies, no shelter, and to top it all off you somehow managed to lose your shoes and shirt. Sounds pretty hopeless right?

➤ **What would you do in a situation like this? How would you overcome this trial?**
(Allow a few students to share their responses to this question.)

Ultimately, in a less-than-ideal environment, you have a choice to make. You can wallow in your own self-pity and hope that someone comes to rescue you, or you could make the best of a bad situation.

This year has been filled with less-than-ideal scenarios. Schools, churches, and communities have had to find creative ways to continue operating in the midst of a global pandemic. Though it hasn't always been easy, many ministries have found creative solutions to keep reaching people with biblical content. Listen to these examples of ministry leaders making the most of hard situations!

Serah serves as a coordinator for Sunday School curriculum in several African countries. When COVID-19 hit, most churches weren't meeting in person. So, the curriculum couldn't be used in the traditional way either. So, Serah began recording family podcasts to encourage families to worship and study the Bible together at home. These on-demand weekly podcasts, which will be available all over Africa, provide short biblical lessons and activities that will help families to have meaningful conversations all week long. These podcasts will equip even small churches with a practical way to meet that need.

Soledad and Veronica serve as ministry leaders all over Latin America. Because they were no longer able to travel and train Sunday School teachers to use the curriculum with their classes. So, they started training teachers using webinars. In the past few months, they've engaged more than 3,000 participants in webinars, providing opportunities for churches all over Latin America to learn and collaborate together. In addition to providing encouragement, these webinars have equipped teachers and ministry leaders to better understand how to share God's truth in ways that bring transformation to young lives.

Because of these leaders' creativity, ministry continues to happen in regions that were otherwise shut down. These are just a few examples of people making the most of hard situations in the past several months! Today, we'll learn today that a level of heavenly perseverance and innovation lies within every one of us; we just need to call upon God to access it. Let's take a look.

Story Source: <https://davidcalebcook.org/2020/10/06/thankful-for-his-creativity/>
David Caleb Cook Foundation Blog

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)



Lesson 10 / November 8, 2020

Making the Best of a Bad Situation

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 10

Focus:

We can grow in tough times.

Lesson 10

Bible Basis:

James 1:1-8, 12; Psalm 32:6-10

Lesson 10

Memory Verse:

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, the person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

—James 1:12

Students will discover that sometimes the most adverse conditions push us to the greatest personal growth.

Materials:

- Index Cards (1 per student)
- Pens/pencils (1 per student)

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring index cards and pens/pencils to class with them.

So far, we have discovered that we can find fulfillment and wisdom in hardship, so long as we can persevere through life's trials. However, talking about pressing through obstacles and actually doing it are two very different things. Because of this, it can be beneficial to set goals in order to gain perspective on our situation.

Our lesson today has demonstrated that life often requires us to encounter hardships in order to do what's most important to us. Yet, for some reason, we're much less willing to embrace hardship. It might be helpful, then, to find some way to reframe our circumstances in a manner that causes us to look for ways to make the most of hard situations.

Hand out index cards and pens/pencils to your students. If your class is meeting online, invite students to have their index cards and pens/pencils ready.

Invite students to write a hard situation they're currently experiencing. Then, challenge them to think of ways they can make the most of the hard situations. Challenge your students to spend time in prayer and reflection in order to think about how they can make the most of other hard situations in their lives. Encourage them to document their progress and share their solutions with the class in the coming weeks.

Close in prayer.

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