

### **Dig In**

1. Discouragement is defeated when you embrace the pressure God approves through the power God provides with the perspective God imparts.
2. Discouragement: A loss of passion to finish a God-given assignment when conflicting pressures increase.
3. Identify the assignments that God has given you. In which of those assignments are experiencing a lesser degree of passion than you had previously?
4. Read Joshua 1:9. Discuss this statement: *"Disappointment is inevitable. Discouragement is a choice."*
5. Are you experiencing any of the following? Are you allowing these to lead to discouragement?
  - Unfulfilled vision
  - Unanswered prayer
  - Unsatisfied longings
  - Unrecognized accomplishments
  - Unappreciated sacrifices
  - Unfunded ambitions
  - Under-resourced teams
  - Unrepentant sin. (What some call discouragement, God calls the consequences of sin. If you want the discouragement to end the sin must end.)
6. What is the difference between the person who experiences the things on the left but not the things on the right? Which are you experiencing?
  - Afflicted                      Crushed
  - Perplexed                    Despair
  - Persecuted                  Forsaken
  - Struck down                Destroyed

### **Break Out**

1. God wants you to die to self so that life of Jesus can flow through you. How does the cross of Christ at work in you defeat discouragement in you?
2. Read 2Cor. 4:1. Have you embraced a role in ministering in the church? Have you backed away from ministry because of discouragement?
3. Are you experiencing any of the following as a consequence of discouragement:
  - Spiritual drift
  - Indulgence in the flesh
  - Estrangement from others
  - Victim mentality
  - Angry Outbursts

**Additional Scripture**

- Proverbs 13:12
- Psalm 13:1-6
- Hebrews 12:11-13