**A green and gold rectangular sign with text and a shield and rays of light

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

**Small Group Discussion Guide**

The God I Want // Week 2

The Rescuer

***Leader Tips:*** *Share discussion guides with every group member. (perhaps send them the link or use screen-sharing). It makes the discussion go so much better when people can see the questions. With each bullet point, read the entire bullet point before opening discussion. Also consider this group time breakdown: 1 hour discussion, 20 minutes prayer.*

**Small Group Challenge:** We may be asking you to step out of your comfort zone, but don’t worry, you’ll have your fellow Small Group members right there with you in this fun challenge. Make a short video of your group singing a portion of your favorite Christmas song! It can be any Christmas song of your choosing, but you all must sing it together. Send the clip of at least 30 seconds to the small group point person.

**ICEBREAKER:**

* What’s your favorite type of food and restaurant?
* Do you like going out for food or do you prefer eating at home or maybe eating outside?
* Do you enjoy making big meals and entertaining guests?

**DISCUSSION:**

1. This week, the message emphasized that God doesn't always eliminate hardships but stands alongside us through them, ultimately providing rescue in due time.

* How do you personally define “hardship” in your life?
* Did the message today about God's role in tough times challenge your usual view of hardship? Why or why not?
* Read Isaiah 43:1-3. What are your thoughts on the idea that God doesn't always remove hardships but walks through them with us? How does this impact your faith journey?
* How does the assurance of ultimate rescue, as mentioned in 2 Timothy 4:18, impact the way you handle hardships in your life.

1. Today’s message also highlighted how tough times can actually help us by refining and strengthening our faith, developing perseverance and character, cultivating humility and dependence on God, and building compassion and empathy.

* Reflecting on Rom. 5:3-5, how do tough times help you become stronger? Can you share a time when facing a challenge made you a better person?
* Can you share a personal experience where you felt God’s presence or support during a difficult time?
* Do you believe we could be in danger of being too comfortable in certain situations or in life overall? Can you think of any examples from the Bible of people getting too comfortable? What was the outcome?

1. It seems like God wants us to be dependent on him (John 15:5, Isaiah 41:13, Proverbs 3:5-6).
   * How might our dependence on God impact our relationship with him?
   * What would happen if God gave you everything you asked for?
   * The sermon reminded us that in the end God will rescue us from hardship. What can we do to keep the end of the story in mind?

**PRAYER:**

As we consider how to pray together as a group it's possible that the Lord's prayer has come to mind. This week's message has forced us to wrestle with the idea that while we PRAY for and HOPE for deliverance, we also ought to have our spiritual eyes open to see where God is with us in the MIDST of our struggles. Consider praying through this scripture, as a way of shaping our prayers in accordance with God's word:

**“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;**

**I have summoned you by name; you are mine.**

**When you pass through the waters,**

**I will be with you;**

**and when you pass through the rivers,**

**they will not sweep over you.**

**When you walk through the fire,**

**you will not be burned;**

**the flames will not set you ablaze.**

**For I am the LORD your God,**

**the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour;” (Isaiah 43:1–3, NIV)**

**GOING DEEPER:**

Prov. 24:10 says If you falter in a time of trouble, how small is your strength! How do you perceive the correlation between one's strength and their response during tough times? Can you recall a moment when your response to difficulty revealed your strength?