

**THE WEEK OF  
May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010**



**Jesus  
Vs.  
The Giant Despair  
Part 4  
1 Thessalonians 12-22**

**"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"  
1 Thessalonians 16-18**

Nobody likes to hear a child complain. Whether you're 15 or 50, there is an innate response of contempt to a child who is whining about what he or she didn't get to do, that they're tired, hungry, or want something they don't have. As a parent, a complaining child is not only unpleasant to the ear. It portrays an unthankful heart.

How does this relate to the challenges in our lives? We call ourselves adults, but if we're honest, we have to admit that there are times that we whine just like little children. We, too, complain to our Heavenly Father when things aren't going the way we'd like. We focus on what isn't going right, what we don't have, who we don't like, and how God should change all this. In essence, just like that child, we presume to know better than our Father. It's something we have a hard time admitting, but often our actions betray us.

It's easy to praise God when things are good. We don't doubt God's provision when the paychecks are steady, the meals are always on the table, the kids are healthy, when life is the way we want it. Let's make a point of praising God in the bad times; when life is not going our way. Instead of whining about the trials, which no doubt will come, let's praise God in the midst of them. And when they come, don't face them alone. Let's look to scriptures to be renewed in the promises of the One who created the universe. He knows our trouble. He knows every hair on our heads. He loves us, and He has a perfect plan for our lives - especially the tough parts.

**Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day *example:*  
*If it's the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)***

**Mon:** Psalm 91  
**Tue:** Psalm 23  
**Wed:** Psalm 40:1-4  
**Thu:** Psalm 121  
**Fri:** Psalm 103

**Discussion Questions for Bible Café:**

1. Think of a time when you praised God in a trial? How did this impact your faith?

2. Why should we give thanks to God when things aren't going well in our lives?

**Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):**