



# Promise: God Will Be With You in the Hard Times

## MAIN IDEAS

- **Christians will have troubles, but God promises to be with them in the hard times.**
- **God allows His children to go through hard times because He loves them and wants their faith to grow.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;...—Isaiah 43:2a*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Isaiah 43:2a
- 2) Psalm 34:19
- 3) Psalm 46:1-3
- 4) Acts 7: 54-60



## LESSON SUMMARY

We are no strangers to troubles. They come in all sizes, shapes, and levels of intensity. This is a fact of life, and Christians are not shielded from difficulty. On the contrary, the Bible says that *many are the afflictions of the righteous* (Psalm 34:19a). We will *pass through waters*—many waters of hardship and suffering.

God allows His children to go through difficulty in order to build their faith—to make their confidence in Him and His promises strong; to learn lessons they need to learn; and to build the character of Christ in them. Though this is not easy, it is good for us and part of God’s promise to do good for us.

But along with the waters of hardship and the many afflictions, God makes a wonderful, comforting promise...*I will be with you*. Just as God was with Stephen when he was being stoned, giving him courage, strength, and peace, so He is with us in affliction. God’s deliverance is not always a change in our circumstances, but His presence in the midst of difficulty, giving us all we need to endure trials victoriously.

May you find the sweet presence of God to be comforting in your difficulties and trials through life as you press on toward the reward of enjoying Him forever in heaven.

*Pray this week that you will sense the presence and help of God throughout your day, and that He will give you a right perspective of suffering. Ask Him to help your child to see that the trials of the Christian life are minor compared to the joy of heaven.*

## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Share with your child some of the hard times in your life and what you learned from them. How were they good for you, and how did they help your faith to grow? What helped you to go through the difficulties? Be sensitive to any difficulties your child is going through, and encourage him or her to bring his or her cares to the Lord.
- Read Psalm 34:19 together. *Does the promise that God will deliver the righteous out of all their afflictions mean that God will change the circumstances to be good? What does it mean?* [Help your child to see that deliverance comes in different ways. Sometimes it is a change in circumstances. Sometimes it is a change in our attitude toward the situation,

or strength or encouragement that God gives us in the situation, the companionship of another in it, or the presence of God helping us to persevere in it.] *Why is God's promise of being with us in hard times such a precious promise?* [Help your child to see the character of God and His active presence with His children— helping, encouraging, blessing.]

**ACTIVITY**

Read Isaiah 43:1-3a with mom or dad. Why is God knowing His children by name so comforting? What does that show you about God?

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Your family probably knows another family going through a hard time right now. How can you help that family? What practical thing could your family do? Pray about it together, and then do what God puts on your heart to do. Write what you did in the box below. Then decorate the frame/draw a frame around the verse.

***Isaiah 43:2a—When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;...***