

*A practical guidebook to help us take God at His word  
and live lives of freedom and power. —Jennie Allen*

Nicole Unice



The  
Struggle  
is  
Real.

Getting better at life,  
stronger in faith,  
and free from the stuff  
keeping you stuck

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
204 ODESSA AVENUE  
PITTSBURG, CA 94565**

*Fall Bible Study*

**PASTOR HENRY L. PERKINS,  
INSTRUCTOR  
October 3, 2018**

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**REVIEW**

**FIND THE TRUTH BY DISCOVERING YOUR BLIND SPOTS  
(WHAT ARE THEY?)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**LESSON FOR TODAY**

**YOUR STRUGGLE MATTERS**

**FOCUS:**

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. (James 1:5)

**GOAL:**

Students will determine the elements that plague us of overcoming our struggles.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Students will identify how God is active in our struggles.

**DEFINITION**

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**SUB-TOPIC**  
**INTERPRETING OUR STRUGGLE**

**Identification:** the action or process of identifying someone or something or the fact of being identified.

**Identify:** establish or indicate who or what (someone or something) is; associate (someone) closely with; regard (someone) as having strong links with.

**Interpretation:** the action of explaining the meaning of something.

**Explain:** make (an idea, situation, or problem) clear to someone by describing it in more detail or revealing relevant facts or ideas.

**INTERPRETING MY STRUGGLE**  
**(WHERE AM I IN MY STRUGGLE?)**

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Identification       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. Denial               | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. Approaching          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4. Broken as a result   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 5. Bitter               | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 6. Courageously engaged | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

**INTERPRETING MY STRUGGLE**  
**(EVALUATION)**

1. What do I see that causes me to struggle?
- 

2. How am I limiting God from entering matters that cause interruption or distraction to my struggle?
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3. Where is the area that I am most deeply fractured that causes me not to trust God?

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4. As a result of the interpretation, what do I need to do to enact solution(s)?

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**MYTHS ABOUT GOD AS I STRUGGLE**

1. God doesn't really need me for any big purpose – my life isn't that important.
  - I've struggled with this in the past.
  - I currently struggle with this.
  - I have never struggled with this.
2. God is distant and doesn't care about me.
  - I've struggled with this in the past.
  - I currently struggle with this.
  - I have never struggled with this.
3. God hasn't fixed my struggle/hurt/trouble, so I must not be worth it.
  - I've struggled with this in the past.
  - I currently struggle with this.
  - I have never struggled with this.
4. God is punishing me because I haven't been good enough.
  - I've struggled with this in the past.
  - I currently struggle with this.
  - I have never struggled with this.
5. I've been hurt in the past and God didn't help, so I'm on my own.
  - I've struggled with this in the past.
  - I currently struggle with this.
  - I have never struggled with this.

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6. Others have it a lot worse than I do, so my problems don't need God's attention.
- I've struggled with this in the past.
  - I currently struggle with this.
  - I have never struggled with this.

**STRUGGLES ARE THE TRAINING GROUND  
IN DETERMINING WISDOM**

**WE LEARN FROM THEM  
(GROUP DISCUSSION)**

**OBJECTIVE:**

As I struggle, how do I apply God's wisdom for resistant resolution?

**DEFINITION**

**INTERPRETATION**

**THE RESULT OF OUR STRUGGLE IS WHEN WE BECOME BROKEN, DESCRIBED AS:**

**Brokenness:** is to be broken, crushed, and torn in spirit over sin.

**THE CAUSE OF OUR STRUGGLE**

**1. Who is the author of our struggle?** \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 3:1-3

Genesis 2:17

Matthew 4:1-11

2 Corinthians 11:14

Satan's goal is to cast **doubt** on God's **intention** and **attack** the core of our identity.

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2. **Recognizing our part in the struggle:** *“Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.”* (Colossians 1:21)

**APPLICATION TO OUR STRUGGLE  
(TITUS 3:3-7)**

<sup>3</sup> At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

<sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,

<sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

<sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

<sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

**HOW WE OVERCOME OUR BROKENNESS?  
ROMANS 8:35-39**

**WHAT TASK DO YOU SEE IN THE TEXT THAT  
EMPOWERS US IN THE STRUGGLE**

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