

# New Life in Jesus Brings Purpose to our Struggles

Penny Crusade 2017



**ALIVE!**

John 5:24

## Introduction (for teacher's use):

This week's Penny Crusade video focuses on the story of Carlos. Carlos is one of our Advent Christian pastors in Mexico. He was delivered from addiction and received new life in Jesus. This new life has given him an opportunity to minister to others who struggle with some of the same things he did. This week's discussion will focus on how God can use our previous struggles for a purpose. (Watch the week 5 video with the kids before beginning this lesson.)

## Scripture Passage: Galatians 6:2 (ESV)

*"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."*

## Teacher Notes:

There are a lot of reasons why we go through the things we do. And God gives purpose to our struggles in a lot of ways. Not only does he give us purpose, but there are a lot of ways that our struggles benefit us. One of those ways is that our struggles give us empathy, which can help us to reach out to others as one who understands what they are going through.

The story of Pastor Carlos teaches us about empathy. He went through a lot before he found his new life in Jesus. And now that he's found Jesus, all of those struggles are given purpose. Galatians 6:2 tells us to "bear one another's burdens," and Pastor Carlos can do that in a unique way as one who has been through what many of the people he is ministering to are going through. That gives him a special opportunity to reach out in love. This doesn't mean that some of what he did wasn't wrong, but God can use even the sin in our lives for a purpose.

*Let's talk more about how our new life in Jesus brings purpose to our struggles ...*

## Discussion Questions:

- *What do you struggle with?*
- *Have you, or your family, ever been through a really hard time?*
- *What kinds of struggles did Pastor Carlos deal with?*
- *How is Pastor Carlos able to use those struggles to share his new life in Jesus with others?*
- *How can we use some of the hard things we've been through to share our new life in Jesus with others?*

## **Activity: Bearing Burdens Object Lesson**

*Needed Supplies: 2 liter bottles (full)*

The object of this activity is to help the kids understand what it means to bear one another's burdens. To begin this activity, give one child a full 2 liter bottle and have them hold it straight out from their body at a right angle (or 90 degrees). When it becomes too hard for the child to hold it up, they can ask another child to take it for them, and then he or she has to hold it the same way as long as possible. This will continue until all the kids have a chance to see how long they can hold it. Then break them up into groups of two – four and have them circle up and try to hold out the bottle together; see which group can hold theirs up the longest. If you'd like to have a fun competition with this, you can time the kids and keep score.