

**Week Five: *Grit: persevering in the face of challenge***  
***Romans 12:11-12, 21***

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day One**

1. Read 2 Kings 5 and Romans 12:11-12, 21. What similar themes do you see?
2. Perseverance is one theme in these passages. From Romans 12:11, at what are God's people to persevere?
3. Why is serving God hard?
4. Why was it difficult for Naaman to persevere?
5. Make a list of things that challenge your perseverance (e.g. I don't understand, it's costly, it's embarrassing, etc.). End your FIFTEEN discussing your list with your Heavenly Father. Ask God where he wants to transform your thinking and enable your perseverance.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two**

6. Read Romans 12:11-12, 21. Now read the same passage in the Message Version, "Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality." The Message (MSG) How would you define zeal and spiritual fervor?
7. How do zeal and spiritual fervor tie into perseverance?
8. The opening statement of this paragraph (verse 9) in Romans 12 declares, "Love must be sincere." How do zeal, fervor, and perseverance express sincere love?
9. How could wrongly directed zeal and fervor negatively impact serving God and genuine love?
10. What determines for you when to persist and when to stop and cut your losses?
11. End your FIFTEEN looking at where you are zealous and fervent. Ask God to clarify your motivations. Ask him to align your eagerness and persistence to his wisdom.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three**

12. Read 2 Kings 5. Why did Naaman want to give up and go home?

13. How did Naaman's servants change his mind?

14. How does a life of ease challenge perseverance?

15. To obey God's commands often doesn't seem heroic. More often, it is hard or humbling. How does evil benefit when we lose heart?

16. In John 16:33 Jesus promises, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Evil's defeat is sure. End your FIFTEEN in worship. Boldly ask for victory where you have lost heart.

#### **Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four**

17. Whom do you know personally or in history that persevered in the face of challenge?

18. What kept them from giving up?

19. Read Romans 12:12. What attitudes and action does Paul advise will undergird perseverance?

20. What key role does prayer play in perseverance?

21. In Naaman's life, the Israelite slave girl and his servants were unexpected conduits of God's love and power. Who are conduits of God's love and power in your life?

22. How has God used people to help you persevere?

23. End your FIFTEEN in thanksgiving. Thank Jesus for the privilege of prayer, the trustworthiness of his promises, and the people he sends to care for you.

#### **Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five**

24. Have you ever experienced a situation when perseverance seemed impossible?

25. What made this seem true?

26. Look at 2 Kings 5 and Romans 12:11-12; 21 again. What have you learned about God?

27. What have you learned about yourself?

28. How does Jesus make perseverance possible?

29. In these passages, we've seen the unexpected nature of God's grace and mercy. We've seen that God is not limited by obstacles. With God, there is much more to life. End your FIFTEEN rejoicing in a personal, all-powerful God.