

## #12 Well Done

**Theme:** When life is bad, remember God may be making you into something better!

### Things You'll Need:

- Hamburger Patties,
- Buns,
- Condiments
- Everything needed to grill burgers

**Advanced Prep:** Hey, you're grilling out for this one...easy, right? Besides reading the lesson and picking up the food, there isn't much prep.

**Activity:** Grill all of the burgers EXCEPT FOR 1...keep it raw or frozen. Sit down at the table and tell everyone it's time to eat. Go ahead and put all of the cooked burgers and the one uncooked burger on buns. Key: make sure EVERYONE notices and gets a good look at the one uncooked patty on the bun. Point it out and ask, "Does anyone want this one?" Of course (hopefully!) everyone says NO WAY!

**Lesson:** Raw (or frozen) burgers are not exactly appetizing. This burger needs to be cooked before it can be edible. Now, if this beef could talk, I'm not so sure it would like the idea of being placed on a grill over a searing fire. But without being cooked, this burger will never bring nourishment to anyone. Sometimes we're a little like this raw burger. Before we can be of any good to others, God needs to make some changes in our lives. Sometimes we need to go through the fire, so to speak—and that isn't pleasant. But if he doesn't do that, we'll never reach the potential he intends for us. We'll never bring "nourishment" to others like God wants us to.

- **Can any of you think of an example of that?**
- **Can you think of a time when you had to go through something that wasn't fun but in the end helped make you a better person?**

*Let me share some Scripture verses with you.*

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let*

*perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2–4)*

Sometimes God puts us “on the grill” as a way to test and strengthen our faith. It develops and deepens our Christian character so that we have perseverance . . . the ability to hang in there and stay true to him in the tough times. It completes something in us. Makes us mature so that we don’t come up short. In other words, the tough times help make us into the person we should be. The kind of person who lacks “nothing.” Does that make sense?

**Let’s hit one more aspect of this:**

- **Can you think of a time when you went through something that seemed like torture, but later you were able to help someone else because of that experience?**

*Check out this passage.*

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. (2 Cor. 1:3–4)*

There are times God puts us on the grill not only for our good but also for the good of others. Once we’ve experienced certain trials and trouble we can relate to others like nobody else can. After we’ve gone through something hard, we’re in a perfect place to help others who are going through a similar problem.

- **Can you think of a time where you’ve helped someone get through a hard time because you’d gone through something similar?**
- **Do you think that’s a good thing to remember when you’re going through hard things?**

Often, we go through trials to mature us. To protect us. To draw us close to good—for our own good. And sometimes we go through hard things so that we can truly help others.

## Summing It Up:

- Sometimes we go through tough times because of our own mistakes, our bad choices, or because of sin. This helps us to say no to sin the next time we're tempted.
- Other times we seem to go through tough times because God is protecting us, making us into better people, and maturing us for our own good.
- And still other times we go through some kind of suffering so that we'll be able to help others and be more understanding when they go through hard times.

For whatever reason we go through tough times, remember it's always for our own good—and for the good of others.

When you go through tough times, try to avoid complaining—and don't give up. A raw burger isn't at all appetizing. Only after it is fully cooked can it bring nourishment. Realize God cares enough about you to cook you a bit, to put you on the grill so that you'll be a better person, able to help others, and so that you'll be all-around more "appetizing" or appealing as a person, able to do the good work he's planned for you to do.

*So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. (1 Pet. 4:19)*

Having this perspective or understanding won't take away the pain of suffering, but it does make it a little easier to bear. And as that happens, guess what? You're already showing real signs of maturing. Flame on.

Shoemaker, Tim. *The Very Best, Hands-On, Kinda Dangerous Family Devotions* (pp. 87-89). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.