



# ADVERSITY IS AN OPPORTUNITY

DERWIN GRAY  
TEAM DISCUSSION GUIDE

FUTURE**FWD**

## ABOUT DERWIN

*Dr. Derwin L. Gray is the founding and lead pastor of Transformation Church, a multiethnic, multigenerational, mission-shaped community located in Indian Land, South Carolina, just south of Charlotte, North Carolina.*

*Derwin met his wife, Vicki, at Brigham Young University. He played for the BYU Cougars football team. They have been married since 1992 and have two children.*

*After graduating from Brigham Young University, Derwin played professional football in the NFL for five years with the Indianapolis Colts (1993-1997) and one year with the Carolina Panthers (1998). During that time, he and Vicki began their journey with Christ and experienced God's faithfulness and direction as He moved their hearts to know Him and make Him known.*

*Derwin and Vicki began an itinerant speaking ministry in 1999, One Heart At A Time Ministries. Derwin went on to graduate magna cum laude from Southern Evangelical Seminary with a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree, with a concentration in Apologetics, where he was mentored by renowned theologian and philosopher, Dr. Norman Geisler.*

*Following God's call on their lives and their desire to shepherd people towards transforming their world through the mission of Christ, the Lord transitioned Derwin from his primary role of itinerant speaker to serving as the Lead Pastor of Transformation Church in January of 2010. Coupling his dynamic speaking style with a shepherd's heart, his intense passion for seeing lives and culture transformed is both contagious and inspiring.*

*In 2015, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Southern Evangelical Seminary. In 2018, he received his Doctor of Ministry in the New Testament in Context at Northern Seminary under Dr. Scot McNight.*

*In addition to his role at Transformation Church, Derwin teaches at conferences nationwide. He is the author of Hero: Unleashing God's Power in a Man's Heart (2010), Limitless Life: You Are More Than Your Past When God Holds Your Future (2013), Crazy Grace for Crazy Times Bible Study (2015), The High-Definition Leader (2015), and The Good Life: What Jesus Teaches About Finding True Happiness (2020).*

## SUMMARY //

In sudden change, adversity is an opportunity. The things we face in the world around us gives us an opportunity to face that adversity.

Embody the ministry of Jesus Himself to enact sanctification around you. Jesus was about justice, mission, worship. He embodied the church and dwells in us and through the spirit to embody His mission.

The spirit of the Lord is in you to preach good news to those around you.

Local churches that display love, understanding, and caring for the injustice everywhere follow in Jesus's gospel.

Understand how to use the digital imprint to communicate the glories of the gospel.

Get teenagers in the main service and serving in the church.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS //

How can you embody the ministry of Jesus outside of your church?

What opportunities can your church do to face the adversities in your community?

How can you use the digital platform to reach your community in the messages of Jesus?

How can you involve teenagers into the church services?

## QUOTES //

"It is we are born into the kingdom of God to become like the King's kids, to be transformed to the image of Jesus, who broke down ethnic barriers, gender barriers, socio-economic barriers."

"We don't believe that teenagers are the church of tomorrow. They're the church of now. Get them involved. Don't put them on the sidelines."

"Digital isn't going anywhere. In Jesus's day, all roads lead to Rome. Well, in today's world 2020, understand this. The internet leads to Jesus."

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