

## Answer Key:

### What do Curve Balls look like in life?

1. minor
2. off-balance
3. strike

### Examples of a Curve Ball...

- Shadrach
- Joseph
- Moses
- Peter
- Paul

### Curve Balls and Life...

1. unavoidable
2. good
3. circumstance
4. swing
5. test

### How Do You Deal with Life's Curveballs?

- Call
- Use
- Reach
- View
- Expect

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## You asked for it!

### Part 3

### *When Life throws You a Curve Ball*

#### James 4:13-15 NLT

***"Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that."***

#### Introductory Statement

***A curveball is a breaking pitch that has more movement than just about any other pitch. The goal is to keep a person off balance with the hope of them making a mistake. Satan loves to use life experiences as curveballs with the intent to keep God's people off balance and to slow them down in joining Christ on His mission. But we need to remember that while these curveballs are unexpected to us, they are not unexpected to God.***

**Batter Up!**

## What do Curve Balls look like in life?

1. Some are \_\_\_\_\_ **daily inconveniences:**
  - *A child gets sick, and you have to change your plans.*
  - *You get a speeding ticket as you are rushing to an appointment.*
  - *Your boss asks you to stay late to work on a project when you scheduled time with your family.*
  - *The weather upsets the day's activities.*
2. Some knock us \_\_\_\_\_:
  - *Someone hits your car and causes major damage.*
  - *The refrigerator stops working, and there is no money in the budget to replace it.*
  - *Your child gets hurt playing sports and requires surgery.*
  - *A good friend shares something about you behind your back.*
3. Some curve balls threaten to \_\_\_\_\_ us out and take us completely out of the game:
  - *A loved one is diagnosed with cancer.*
  - *You lose your job.*
  - *A spouse is unfaithful.*
  - *Someone close to you dies.*

**John 16:33 NIV**

**"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."**

**"You can't control the curve balls life throws you, so you have to learn how to control yourself and change quickly to make sure the curve ball doesn't knock you out."**

**Mark Edwards**

## Examples of a Curve Ball...

- \_\_\_\_\_, Meshach, Abednego
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**"When life throws you, a curveball do not let it knock you down and keep you down. Get up, re-adjust, brush yourself off, and keep moving forward."**

**George Bronner**

## Curve balls

Disappointment + Time = **Discouragement**

Discouragement + Time = **Discontentment**

Discontentment + Time = **Disillusionment**

## Curve Balls and Life...

1. Curveballs are \_\_\_\_\_.

## Genesis 8:22 NLT

*"As long as the earth remains, there will be springtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, day and night."*

*"There is no growth in life without a curveball occasionally. There is no adjustment without striking out sometimes. There is no progress without failure. There is no growth without agony."*

Barry Yates

## Curve Balls and Life...

2. Curveballs are not always \_\_\_\_\_, but God uses them for good.

## Romans 8:28 NIV

*"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."*

*You know, some people act as if God is caught off guard when a curveball comes your way.*

**He is NOT!**

## Curve Balls and Life...

3. God uses every \_\_\_\_\_ to make you more like Him.

## Romans 8:28-29 NLT

*"We know that God causes EVERYTHING to work together for the good of those who love him and are called to his purpose for them. For God knew in advance, who would come to him, and he chose them TO BECOME LIKE HIS SON..."*

## Romans 5:4 NLT

*endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.*

**God says, "My number one goal in your life is to make you like**

**Jesus Christ**

### **Curve Balls and Life...**

4. When you \_\_\_\_\_ and miss the ball, God will use that to help others in life.

**Genesis 50:20 NIV**

**"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."**

### **Curve Balls and Life...**

5. Every curveball in your life is a \_\_\_\_\_ of your faith.

**1 Peter 1:7 GWT**

**"The purpose of these troubles is to test your faith as fire tests how genuine gold is. Your faith is more precious than gold, and by passing the test, it gives praise, glory, and honor to God."**

## **How Do You Deal with Life's Curveballs?**

**C-U-R-V-E ...**

- \_\_\_\_\_ out to Jesus.

**Psalm 34:6 NIV**

**"This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles".**

**He knows what life is throwing at you and is right there to help!**

- \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible to gain wisdom and understanding.

**Romans 15:4 NIV**

**"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."**

**God's Word can speak to you in your confusion, pain, and suffering!**

- \_\_\_\_\_ out to others for encouragement and support.

**1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV**

***"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."***

***Don't go alone! There are other players on your team who want to be there for you.***

- \_\_\_\_\_ this curveball as an opportunity to grow stronger, wiser, and better.

**James 1:3 NIV**

***"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".***

***Try to see curveballs as teachable moments for growth and maturity in your Christian walk!***

- \_\_\_\_\_ to be continually thrown curveballs throughout life.

**Philippians 4:6 NIV**

***"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God".***

***Do not allow them to make you anxious or lose hope.***

***Bring every one of them to the Lord!***

**Closing:**

**Has a curveball caught you by surprise?**

**Have you encountered some surprises that have caught you off your game?**

**Take heart, lean on Jesus, and, by faith, determine to stay in the game.**

**God will not leave your side.**