



# MAINTAINING FAITH THROUGH BOTH THE PEAKS AND THE VALLEYS

with Jordan Kunaszyk

## ▶ FOCUS VERSES

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

## ▶ DISCUSSION

- 1. Driven in part by his early success at the game, Jordan recalls a time when he made football not just a pursuit but an “idol.” (See 1 Corinthians 10:14.)**
  - a. Was there anything you pursued as a young man in a similar way—to the point where it took attention away from other things in your life that were more important?
  - b. Is there anything like that in your life now, and if so, have you recognized anything important in your life that it's taking attention away from?
- 2. As you've sought a more personal, meaningful relationship with God, what are the times when you've felt the most frustrated?**
  - a. What have been the things you've struggled most to understand?
  - b. When you've hit those challenging points, have they motivated you to devote more time and energy to your faith, or have you been more likely to pull back and devote less time to those things?



Find this podcast at [theredeemed.com/jordan-kunaszyk/](https://theredeemed.com/jordan-kunaszyk/)

- 3. Jordan talks about coming home from a mission trip feeling energized to serve others the way he'd served children in Mexico—but he was motivated more by a desire to curry favor with God than to serve and glorify Him, and he remained spiritually unfulfilled as a result. (See *Ephesians 2:8-9*.)**
- a. Is there anything you're doing in your life right now that's superficially selfless or service-oriented, but deep down is still motivated by a desire for personal gain more than a desire to glorify God?
  
  - b. Talk about ways you could re-frame those efforts in your mind and approach them with more godly motives.
- 4. Do you ever approach your faith, like Jordan says he once did, as an “intellectual activity”—a problem to be solved rather than a relationship to be celebrated and grateful for?**
- 5. What are the times when you're least likely to feel God's presence in your life?**
- a. In those moments, do you take time to reflect on God's word and the promises He's made to us?
- 6. Jordan acknowledges that his time in the NFL so far hasn't been what young men usually dream about when they dream of being a professional football player, but he's still grateful for it, and he recognizes how God may be using him for other things.**
- a. Have you ever achieved something that, while significant, didn't turn out to be quite like you'd envisioned it?
  
  - b. Did you focus mainly on your disappointment, or did you find anything about that experience that turned out to be valuable and/or fulfilling in unexpected ways?

