






	<p>AGAINST THE ROPES: Down But Not Out</p>
 BIG IDEA	<p>Nothing reveals and defines character more clearly than adversity.</p>
 ICE BREAKER	<p>If you could have a conversation with any person living or dead who has overcome significant adversity, who would it be and what would you ask them?</p>
 MAIN POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We tend to avoid pain and see it as worthless or a sign God is not with us. The Bible disagrees. ● Every standout person in the Bible experienced significant adversity ● Difficult times are what God uses to shape our lives ● Like Naaman, our true character emerges when we don't get our way ● Our response to adversity shows what we truly believe about God
 DISCUSS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What most stood out to you from the message this weekend? Why? 2. Share how adversity in your past has shaped who you are today. 3. Pastor Cal mentioned that every person who stands out in the Bible experienced adversity. Is there a biblical figure's struggle you most relate to? Why? 4. In 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Paul talks about his "thorn in the flesh." How does his perspective challenge your view of your own struggles? 5. Pastor Cal mentioned that "adversity introduces a person to themselves." What have your struggles taught you about who you really are? 6. What "it" (struggle or challenge) are you currently facing? How comfortable are you acknowledging this adversity?
 NEXT STEP	<p>What change do you need to make? How can this group support you in your current struggles? Identify a truth about God that you need to hold onto when facing your "against the ropes" moments.</p>
 SCRIPTURE	<p>Acts 14:22 We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.</p> <p>James 1:2-4 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.</p>
 NEXT WEEK SNEAK PEAK	<p>Join us next week and invite a friend as we continue the series called Against the Ropes!</p>