

4 "Chapters" of the Bible that help put suffering in context:

First Chapter: Creation
(Genesis 1)

Second Chapter: The Fall
(Genesis 3; Romans 8:20-21, Lam 3:22)

Third Chapter: Jesus

Fourth Chapter: New Creation
(Revelation 21, Romans 8:23-24, Romans 8:18, 2 Peter 3:9)

NEXT WEEK: Easter! John 20

GET PLUGGED IN >>>



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cedarfallstrinity.org



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EMAIL
office@cedarfallstrinity.org



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1. WELCOME

If anyone has had a significant event in their life this past week, give them a minute to share with the group. If necessary, take some time to pray for any immediate needs right at the beginning of the meeting.

2. VISION/PURPOSE

God designed us for relationship. How can we stay connected with each other during the COVID-19 pandemic?

3. SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

Review guidelines (Use "I" Statements, No Fixing, Confidentiality, Listening) that cultivate a healthy environment for sharing and discussion.

4. OPENING PRAYER

5. READ SCRIPTURE PASSAGE/TELL BIBLE STORY PASSAGE

6. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use a good mix of Head (informational/study) questions, Heart (personal reflection) questions, and Hand (practical application) questions. Below are questions your group can pick from to follow along with the sermon series.

7. PERSONAL SHARING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

You can share and pray in one group, in smaller groups, or in gender specific groups. Make sure that phone numbers are shared so that encouragement and connection can happen during the week.

QUESTIONS

WARM UP: Do you have a favorite Covid-19 meme?

HEAD: These questions help us examine the Word.

1. Read Romans 8:18-28. How are these verses helpful for us in the midst of suffering?
2. What are the 4 "chapters" of the Bible Pastor Peter discussed? How do they put suffering in proper context?
3. What does Christianity's explanation for suffering offer that no other explanation offers?

HEART: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

4. How are you doing right now with living in the tension of living in the middle of this story?
5. Romans 8:26 says that the Spirit groans along with us. How are you seeing God's presence with you in the midst of this time?

HAND: These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into our everyday life.

6. Share with the group something you are doing that is helping you to trust God right now.