

Group Questions – Revelation 2: 8-11 – Wealth in Suffering

Define the word SUFFERING.

What are some examples of things that some people would consider suffering and other people would not?

How much of suffering is based on a person's perspective?

Read – Revelation 2: 8-11

Jesus identifies Himself differently to each church He speaks to.

How does Jesus identify Himself to the church in Smyrna?

The church in Smyrna was going through a lot of suffering.

Why do you think Jesus chose to identify Himself to this suffering church as, “the one who was dead and came to life”?

How does understanding the reality of resurrection help you deal with suffering in your life?

Jesus had no word of rebuke for this suffering church

How can going through suffering help make us better followers of Jesus?

If this church was so good, why do you think God allowed them to experience suffering?

How much of a connection is there between us being “good” and avoiding suffering in life?

Read – 1 Peter 4:12-16

Why do you think Peter says that we should “not think it strange” when we experience “fiery trials”?

What does Peter suggest we do with the suffering we experience as Christians?

What are some different causes of suffering in this world?

Though most of our trials do not come from God, He still allows them in our lives, and He is so good that He can use even the bad things that happen to bring good in our lives.

What are some ways you have seen God use bad things for good in your life?

Jesus tells the church in Smyrna that He knows they are poor, but they are rich.

How could they be both POOR and RICH at the same time?

Can you share a time in your life when you were... POOR but RICH?

Jesus tells this church that they will suffer more in the future. But Jesus also tells them not to fear this future suffering.

How is it possible to NOT FEAR future suffering?

Jesus encourages this church to remain faithful through the suffering.

How can suffering cause us to become unfaithful to the Lord?

At the end of Revelation 2:10... What is the encouragement Jesus gives the church as to why they should remain faithful?

How can knowing we will receive the “crown of life” keep us focused on faithfulness, even when we go through times of suffering?

Read – Job 2:3-10

What was the cause of Job’s suffering?

Why did God allow Job to suffer?

Job’s story has encouraged millions of people who encounter suffering.

How can your story of suffering help others?

CLOSING PRAYER