



Bible study for the week starting May 5, 2024

SHARE

What was a point of the most severe suffering in your life (could be physical, spiritual, or emotional – only if you're comfortable sharing). Looking back *now*, where do you see God in the midst of that suffering?

READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

1. Read **Romans 5:1-11**. These verses help build a framework for suffering that ends in hope, and also speaks of maintaining joy even in the midst of suffering. How is this possible?!
2. Read **Job 40:1-9 (really all of Job 40 and 41, time permitting)**. While it is natural to struggle with the question of suffering, what perspective does God give us in this exchange?
3. Read **John 21:15-19**. John gives a little footnote at the end that Peter was going to glorify God by the kind of death he would die. How can we glorify God in our suffering, even our death?
4. Something can be *true*, but that doesn't always mean the timing is right to say that thing to a person in the midst of their grief or suffering. Give a few examples of true things that might or might not be timely things to say to someone.

PRAY

Pray for the strength of God's Holy Spirit to glorify God, stay faithful, and give witness even through your suffering.



CAN I ASK THAT ABOUT SUFFERING?

Romans 5:1-11 (Job 40:1-9; John 21:15-19)

May 5, 2024 – Pastor Eric Van Scharrel

The existence of evil (and suffering) point you TOWARD God, not AWAY from Him.

What starts with suffering is meant to end in HOPE.

While God does not CAUSE suffering, He is certainly able to PREVENT it and sometimes ALLOWS it.

If BAD things happen to you, you're in GOOD company.

Do you know how to “suffer WELL?”

Do you know how to “DIE well?”

Polycarp died, but his rally cry in death lives to this day: “Jesus Christ is KING FOREVER!”

Just because something is TRUE does not necessarily mean it is something you can tell someone in the midst of their suffering.

*For next week, please read Matthew 5:13-20
(Leviticus 14:33-42 and Galatians 6:2-9)*