

SIGNALS
Part 2: When Life Hurts

Objective: To encourage us to remember that even when life is painful, God is still working in us, on us and through us.

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”
John 16:33(NIV)

Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33 (NLT)

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:17-18, 28

- Even though, intellectually, we know that life includes times of great pain and difficulty, we are usually surprised when life hurts. Why do you think that is?
- When you are faced with “many trials and sorrows,” what is your natural response? What would others say your natural response is when life hurts? What signals about God do you send when you experience pain?
- We have a tendency to think that bad things shouldn’t happen to good people. We also assume that *WE* are good people. However, the pastor said, “*Bad things happen. Period.*” And “*There are no good people.*” What is your response to those thoughts?
- When life hurts, what are some ways you can allow God to use you to make a difference for others?

Consider this week:

- How can you take the pain you’ve experienced and allow God to use it for good?
- What can you do to make a difference for others who are facing pain in their lives?

Final Thought: How we respond to pain tells the world what we believe about God. As you encounter pain in the future, what will you do to show the world that God is good, loving and kind?

