

Small Group Notes

Sermon: 20 March 2022

SUFFERING

HEAD ON

SCRIPTURE

Luke 4:1-14

OVERVIEW

Sara looked at one of the most challenging topics that people can face in their lives - suffering.

When faced with suffering, we've either encountered or asked questions ourselves of "how can a good God allow this to happen?"

Sara shared 3 different objects to point us to Jesus when suffering inevitably comes into our lives:

1. HOPE (Binoculars)

Looking back to the beginning and looking ahead to the promised eternal reality to see what God is doing about suffering

2. MEANING (Compass)

God doesn't give us a map to explain the reason behind every bit of suffering, but he does give us a compass to give us a bearing as we walk through dark valleys. We can consider how God could be transforming us through a season of suffering.

3. HELP (Tent)

God doesn't promise to protect us from every negative situation, but he does promise to presence himself with us. In Psalm 27 it says that "he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble"

QUESTIONS

1. When have you felt like you were walking through a wilderness? (Either currently or in the past) Can you describe some of the feelings or questions that it stirred up for you?

Read- Luke 4v1-14 again

2. Which of the areas of temptation/ struggles did you relate to most (or feel that the Holy Spirit highlighted to you in order to bring freedom?) i.e. needs of the body, needs of the heart, need to understand
3. The personal meaning we find in seasons of suffering is that Jesus can transform us into one who carries more of His glory and walks in greater freedom and peace and closeness with Him, in both the good and the bad times. In what ways have you seen God change you during hardships / pain?

Prayer suggestions:

- a time of confession, repentance and receiving His Holy Spirit relating to needs of the body/ the heart/ to understand
- pray and share encouragements for those going through suffering
- read Psalm 27, have a time of quiet reflection and then use the psalm to do praise prayers, or have a time to worship/ sing regardless of circumstance.