

# Busted Faith - That Hurts: Pain and Suffering

April 22 & 23, 2023

*All Bible passages are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.*

**How could a good God allow so much pain and suffering in our world?**

**BIG IDEA: God is with us, even through the darkest and hardest times.**

**Psalms 23:1-4,6** | <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, <sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ... <sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**1. LOVE is who God is, and it also describes our deepest desire in life.**

**1 John 4:8** | Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

**2. Love does not exist without FREEDOM.**

**Free Will: The capacity to choose between different possible courses of action unimpeded.**

**3. Free will results in a world of both GOODNESS and PAIN.**

**Pain isn't a signal to RUN AWAY from God. It's your cue to RUN TO Him.**

**NEXT STEP: Let your pain lead you to run to God.**

# Busted Faith - That Hurts: Pain and Suffering

April 22 & 23, 2023

## Further Study & Discussion Questions

---

### Getting to Know You:

What is one thing you would do if you couldn't feel pain or if no harm would come to you? Why?

### Quick Review:

Was there anything about this week's message that was surprising to you? Was there a specific point or Scripture that made you want to elbow the person sitting next to you? Or maybe made them want to elbow you? What was the one thing you remember most from the message?

### Digging Deeper:

In the message, we talked about how pain can lead us to run to God instead of running away from Him. Have you ever experienced this in your own life? How did it impact you?

Read **Romans 8:18-28**.

**Romans 8:18-28** | <sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. <sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. <sup>28</sup> 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.

What does this passage teach us about how God can use even our pain and suffering for good?

### Application:

This week, think about how you can apply the idea of running to God when you're in pain. Are there any specific situations where you can choose to run to God instead of away from Him?

Say this prayer this week: God, when I experience pain and suffering in my life, help me to remember to run to You instead of away from You, knowing that You are always with me and can bring comfort and peace. Amen