

SERMON GROUP STUDY GUIDE

What was the most significant thing you learned from the sermon or something in the sermon you didn't quite understand?

INTRO

Have you ever had a moment with a big group of people listening to a sermon or a speaker and it felt like they were talking directly to you?

DIGGING INTO THE TEXT - COLOSSIANS 1:24-27

- Why does Paul say that he suffers and is afflicted? How did he feel about his suffering?
- Why would God purposely use suffering as part of Paul's ministry for the sake of the church?
- How are Paul's afflictions "filling up what is lacking in Christ afflictions?"
- In what ways were Christ afflictions not lacking?
- How are we able to fill up what is lacking in Christ afflictions?
- What has Paul become a minister and Steward of? What does stewardship mean?
- What do you think Paul means when he says "fully known?"
- What is the mystery? Who is it revealed to? What does that tell us about the makeup of the church?
- What does the phrase "Christ in you, the hope of glory" reveal about Christian identity?
- What contrast do you see between present suffering and future glory?

TAKEAWAYS

MINISTRY IS HARD

1 Peter 4:12-16; John 15:5

- What kind of suffering still surprises you?
- Where is your obedience to Jesus currently costing you something?
- Is God calling you to something, but fear of suffering is holding you back?
- What suffering has God used most clearly to shape your faith?
- Where do you notice yourself trying to serve Christ in your own strength instead of dependence on Him?
- What specific situation do you need Christ's help to speak into or act on this week?

JESUS IS GOD'S YES, NOT HIS "MAYBE"

2 Corinthians 1:20-22, Ephesians 1:13-14

- At the heart of Paul's apostolic calling is the idea of being unified with Christ forever. Why is this important for us to know and understand?
- Which promise of God is hardest for you to trust when you're suffering?
- What keeps that promise from feeling real?
- How does knowing your future with Christ is guaranteed affect the way you handle present suffering?
- Looking back on previous times of suffering, Where can you now see God's faithfulness in ways you missed at the time?