

Group Discussion

INTRODUCTION

Does the Bible really say that our suffering is God's punishment? What would change in our lives if our thoughts, actions, and feelings were based on what the Bible actually says instead of what we think it says?

GETTING STARTED

1. Share an experience where you went through a time of pain or suffering? Who else was involved? What were the results?

FROM THE SERMON

2. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time that caught your attention, confused you, or challenged you?
3. Read John 16:33. What is the difference between comfort and peace? In troubled times, what does courage look like to you? Describe how daily "being in Jesus" aids your growth through suffering?
4. Read John 9:1-11; 35-38. Why was the man born blind (vs. 3)? What was the first experience like after the blind man got his sight? Discuss the progression of this man's faith compared to your personal experience with God. How do you relate to his story of suffering? What do you think God is doing in your life through your suffering?
5. Read Romans 8:28-29. How confident are you in God's ability to work out His plans in you? What is His ultimate desire for each of us (vs. 29)? What may be holding you back from being a part of His plan? What excites you about being involved in His plan?
6. What are you hearing from the Holy Spirit right now?

NEXT STEPS

7. What will you now do with this new truth or spiritual insight as revealed by the Holy Spirit?
8. Make time to pray together.