

# Discussion Questions

## INTRODUCTION

Do you ever feel alone in your suffering? What if you could know for sure that God was preparing you for an even greater purpose?

## GETTING STARTED

1. Share about a past experience when you were unhappy with a situation, job, or relationship. How did you get through it? Can you think of any benefits that came out of suffering through the experience?

## BIBLE IDEA

2. Read Revelation 1:9-20. Why was John banished to the Island of Patmos (vs. 9)? How did John react to Jesus? How would you have reacted to Jesus? What was John's purpose as he lived out the rest of his life in suffering & exile (vs. 19)?
3. Read Philippians 2:9-11 & Revelation 1:12-16. What strikes you when comparing these two passages? Knowing that Jesus has complete authority over heaven and earth, how do you recognize Him daily as Lord, even in suffering?
4. Read Colossians 1:15-23. List and discuss the elements over which Jesus has dominion. How is God pleased (vs. 19-20)? How have you personally been reconciled to God? What role are you currently fulfilling, as we together carry the Gospel message?
5. Read Romans 5:3-5. In what ways might we suffer? Share about a time when you persevered in your faith. Specifically, what does Christian character look like? Spend a few moments speaking hope into someone around you.
6. Read Romans 15:13. What is promised as you trust Him when suffering? Memorize this verse together.

## NEXT STEPS

7. How is God preparing you for your next faith journey? What obstacles has He removed? Which ones remain? Share one step you will take this week to actively move in His direction.