



## Lesson Six: Walking through Trials



"The Christian's Suffering"

NOTES

Lined area for taking notes.

DOODLES

A Question Everyone Asks

All people, and certainly all Christians ask why we suffer. Why do bad things happen to people trying to live godly lives? Why does God allow difficult things in our lives and what does that mean about His trustworthiness? Some Christians ask these questions often and some ask them seldom; some ask them early in their life with Jesus and some ask later.

A Hard Reality

It is common to think that if we start following Jesus that everything will begin to go better in our lives. However, Jesus said that if we want to follow Him, we are going to suffer since He did.

Luke 9:23

Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.

Jesus also said,

John 16:33

"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."



REFLECT

What has been your view of suffering up to now? What is your response to knowing that following Jesus means suffering?

Lined area for reflecting on the text.

An Abnormal Normal

Suffering and death are part of everyday life for us now, yet we know they are not the way things are supposed to be. They came into our reality when people first sinned against God. Most of human philosophy and religion makes an attempt to explain and/or deal with these problems but the Bible tells us that they are not God's original design for Mankind. Intuitively, all of us understand that pain, sadness, and fear are not how our lives are meant to be. When Jesus heals and overcomes sickness, death, lies, nature, and demons, He is not doing something abnormal but giving a glimpse of God's original design for a good world. It seems weird to us because all we know is a broken world.



DISCUSS

In what ways should we say that suffering is normal and in what ways is it not normal?

Lined area for discussing the text.









