



Session 3: Jesus' Suffering & Your Suffering

CATCHING UP

Did you memorize the verse you selected in the last session?

Come up with a creative new ending to this statement:

When the going gets tough, the tough...

KEY VERSE

We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

(Romans 5:3-4 NIV)

WATCH the video lesson now and take notes (if you wish).

Jesus' Suffering and Your Suffering

Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame.

Hebrews 12:2 NIV

We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Romans 5:3-4 NIV

Suffering produces _____.

You can either panic or persevere when you are under pressure. Which one do you think God wants you to do?

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

2 Corinthians 1:8-9 NIV

Paul learned that in his own ability he could not handle the stress of life. But he also learned that in God's power he could handle anything. How did he learn that lesson? Through the things he suffered.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13 NKJV

Perseverance produces _____.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2-4 NIV

Character produces _____.

When you go through suffering, you can face it with resentment or gratitude with complaining or rejoicing; with worry or worship; with fear or faith; with self-dependence or self-surrender.

When you ask God "Why?" and demand an explanation, you're not really looking for an answer. You're looking for an argument. Instead of saying "God, why are you doing this to me?" you should say what Jesus said: Father, not my will, but your will be done (see Luke 22:42). Do whatever it takes to make me like Jesus in this trial I'm facing. My life is in your hands.

Discovery Questions

1. If a friend of yours were going through a hard time and asked you, “If God loves me, why is he allowing me to suffer?” how would you answer that question?
2. What problem in your life has caused the greatest growth in your character?
3. Are you more prone to pray “comfort me” prayers or “conform me” prayers? What is the difference between the two?
4. Are you currently experiencing hardship? If so, how is it affecting your relationship with God?

Next Steps

- Select a scripture verse from the message outline that you will memorize this week.
- Pray for your group’s prayer requests.
- Dive Deeper. Read these passages about Jesus’ betrayal and arrest at Gethsemane: Matthew 26:14-75; Mark 14:27-72; Luke 22:1-71; John 18:1-27.