

Small-Group Notes

HOPE | Week 4 “Suffering”

One of the greatest challenges in following Jesus is attempting to understand suffering. After all, why would a loving God allow suffering in a world He created? For those who have suffered greatly, this is not a philosophical issue, but one that is deep-seated, emotional and strikes hard at the foundation of their faith. However, Christianity is the only faith or worldview that can make sense of the problem of evil and suffering. Jesus endured rejection, temptation, abandonment, trauma, torture, thirst, hunger, persecution and even execution. He experienced the same suffering as many people today who know the bitterness of isolation, pain, and anguish. When asked how much God cares about the problem of evil and suffering, those who follow Jesus can point to the cross and say, “That much.” Love and concern for our suffering is at the heart of God’s love for us. It’s what the cross is all about.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- If you had a magic lamp, what would be three things you would wish for right now and how would you use what you wished for?
- How has suffering directly or indirectly impacted your life or someone you know?

SERMON NOTES REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

WATCH THE VIDEO

([Watch Small Group Video here](#))

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. When was a time that God used pain and suffering for your good?
2. In this week's message, Robert debunked the idea that followers of Jesus will not suffer. There are many reasons we may one day find ourselves in a season of suffering. Read the following verses aloud: [Romans 3:23](#); [John 16:33](#); [John 9:1-3](#). What do these verses tell us about why we may experience suffering?
3. Robert shared Romans 8:28, “*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*” What does this verse tell us about what we can hope for through the experience of suffering?
4. Just because God is silent doesn’t mean He is absent or does not care. Through all of life’s trials and troubles, He is always there for us. Read [Psalm 139:1-10](#) aloud.
 - What do these verses say about God’s presence in our lives?
 - Is there any time in our lives where God is not present with us?
 - What comfort can we take from these verses?

PRAYER

[Matthew 6:9–13](#)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

ACTION ITEMS

If you said **YES** to Jesus this week, we want to celebrate with you and get you started off right. Go to [yes.sv.cc](#)

Take the 40 days of Hope challenge at [hope.sv.cc](#)

- Attend a service every week ([live.sv.cc](#))
- Join a small group ([groups.sv.cc](#))
- Watch the daily devos ([daily.sv.cc](#))
- Attend prayer time online Wed @ 7:00pm ([live.sv.cc](#))

It is not too late for you to be baptized. If you haven't yet been baptized, register at [baptism.sv.cc](#)