



Part One: Finding Meaning in Suffering

I wish there was a way to avoid pain altogether. Unfortunately, on some level, all of us experience a degree of suffering. While we can't always control our circumstances, we can decide how we respond to the challenges and obstacles in our lives. This message is an invitation to find meaning in suffering.

Scripture: Romans 5:1-3, 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

Bottom Line: God is more powerful than our most powerful pain.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you find it easier to have a close relationship with God when things are going well for you or when things are difficult? Why? What are some of the reasons that help you feel closer to God and what are some that make Him feel more distant?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. What are the key words or ideas in this passage? What do they tell us about how God works? How we should view ourselves? How we should view our struggles? Are there other verses or passages that come to mind that help you understand this one?
3. What do you think is meant by God's grace (verse 9)? Do you think that what God gives us is enough/sufficient? Are there times when you feel that this is true? Are there times that you feel like it isn't?
4. Do you think that it is healthy to admit your weakness? Why or why not? In what context does Paul boast in his weakness? Why is this helpful for him? Do you think it is a concept that is helpful for you? In what ways or scenarios could you apply this idea? According to this passage, God's power is made perfect in weakness. What does that mean? Have you ever experienced this to be true in your own life? Share your experience(s).
5. What are some ways that you can be reminded of God's power and goodness before, during and after going through difficult times of pain or suffering?

Moving Forward

Spend some time in smaller groups sharing any pain that you might be going through in the present. What aspects of God's character might encourage you to have confidence that he is greater than your greatest challenge?