

ASKING FOR A FRIEND | WEEK 2: THE PAIN QUESTIONS

FEBRUARY 24, 2019

SERMON STUDY

Dive deeper into this week's message and passages from the Bible. Here are some questions to help guide your group discussion.

God promised life on earth would be tough, but he also promised never to leave us, to give purpose to our pain, and to offer hope when life seem hopeless. The ultimate response to pain and suffering isn't an explanation, but the incarnation. Jesus came into our world to bring redemption for our pain and suffering!

Read John 16:33 and Luke 13:1-3. Jesus promised that life here on earth would have many trials and sorrows. Some suffering is the result of our own choices, some of the result of others' sinful choices, some the result of a spiritual attack. Most suffering is the result of the fact that we live in a broken world.

- Have you ever asked the question: "Why does God allow pain and suffering?" If so, when and for what reasons?
- Many often ask: "Why didn't God create a world without suffering?" We can look at Genesis 1 and see that God did—there was no tragedy or suffering. When you consider most suffering is the result of a broken world, are you helped or discouraged in your pain? Explain.

Read Daniel 3:24-25. God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the furnace. Sometimes we need someone to sit with us in our pain, to offer comfort in the words, "you are not alone."

- Have you felt or do you feel alone in your pain and suffering? When? How can our group pray for you and come alongside you?
- Do you know that the Holy Spirit has promised to be with you always and that he comforts you with a peace that passes understanding? Share your experience with the group.

Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. Pain often has a purpose. God doesn't cause all things, but he does cause them to work together for good. Pain and suffering have a way of shaping us to look a little more like Jesus.

- In what way does this truth encourage you?
- Have you ever experienced this to be true in your own life? When?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:17, Revelation 21:3-5, and 2 Peter 3:9. The Bible gives us hope—something we can look forward to. The ultimate response to pain and suffering isn't an explanation, but the incarnation. Jesus came into our world and offered a plan for redemption.

- What came to mind when Aaron shared what won't be in heaven? How did this impact you?
- How does this picture of the future give you hope?

REFLECT

What is God saying to you through his word? How and when will you respond?

DAILY BIBLE READING

Need a review of what we're reading in Daily Bible Reading? Here's a glance at how we're being challenged this week. (Subscribe at: tpcc.org/dailybiblereading)

Day One: John 16:33 | You're going to have tough times.

Day Two: Luke 13:1-3 | We live in a broken world.

Day Three: Daniel 3:24-25 | You are not alone.

Day Four: 2 Corinthians 7:10 | Pain often has a purpose.

Day Five: 2 Corinthians 4:17 and Revelation 21:3-5 | The ultimate response to pain and suffering.