

# life together

SMALL GROUP  
DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Main point from Sunday's sermon:

God uses suffering to galvanize our faith. Now let's RECAP:

## Re-Read

Re-read 2 Corinthians 1:1-11. As you do, highlight what you think are the key sentences or phrases. You'll come back to those as you evaluate the main point of the passage shortly.

## Evaluate

Using the key statements, sentences, or phrases you highlighted, determine as a group what you think the big idea is.

The main points from Sunday's sermon were:

*In the midst of suffering:*

1. Remember God is in control (vv.1-2)
2. Reinvest your scars for others (vv.3-7)
3. Rely on God for deliverance (vv.8-11)

Spend a few minutes connecting the text and the main points. Where in the text do you see the above statements and points?

## Citations from the Church

*"God is God whether we recognize it or not. But it comforts us and infuses strength into our faltering spirits to rest on that truth," Elisabeth Elliot.*

Do you agree or disagree? In what ways does remembering God is God infuse strength into your life and situations? Are there ways you can make that more a part of your life on a regular basis?

*"I could never myself believe in God, if it were not for the cross; In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?" John Stott.*

Do you agree or disagree? In what ways does God enter into the story of human pain? Do you think He is immune to it? How does this differ with other world religions and their view of suffering?

## Application or Advancing the Gospel

If the typical responses to suffering are *Eliminate* (run/hide), *Medicate* (numb), or to *Denigrate* (complain), which do you find yourself gravitating toward (if any)? Why? How do you combat those?

How does the gospel allow us to lean into, face, and rejoice in place of those typical responses?

Read Romans 8:1. Summarize it in your own words. How does this verse (and others like it) give hope in the midst of suffering? What central truth does it provide for you? Is that hopeful? Does that change your understanding of suffering? Why?

How has God shone Himself faithful through your suffering that you can now share with someone facing the same things? List as many as possible from your own life. Is there anyone you can think of walking through the same situation(s)? What can you do pursue them with the hope you have?

Have you ever felt utterly, unbearably crushed? How has God proven Himself faithful amidst it?

## Praise

In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song; This cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease! My comforter, my all in all, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the pow'r of Christ in me; From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand; Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

"In Christ Alone," by Keith Getty / Stuart Townend