



LIFEGROUPS

Sermon title:
“The Book of you: Life in the Middle”
Scripture: Romans 5:3-5
Date: Sept. 12 & 13, 2015

Don't feel pressured to cover every single question. Feel free to disagree with and discuss any statement on the “Let's Review” Section.

Let's Talk

- What's one of the toughest challenges you've faced in your life so far?

Let's Review

- Sermon scriptures: [Pslm 13:1-4] - [Acts 20:24] - [Rom 5:3-5, 8:17, 12:15] - [2 Cor 12:10] - [Gal 6:2] - [Col 3:11] - [1 Pet 4:1-13] - [Jam 1:1-4] - [Heb 2:10-18]
- We must choose our attitude toward suffering: bitterness, or embracement
- Embracing suffering transforms us
- Christ suffers with us, thus we have fellowship with Him in suffering
- Coping with suffering: Share it, Thank God, Complain to God, Don't waste it, Welcome it

Let's Dig

- How would you define suffering?
- Why do people believe Satan is only symbolic evil? What do you believe?
- Do you expect to face suffering in life? Why, or why not?
- How might Christians prepare themselves for suffering before it happens?
- Have you ever been transformed by suffering? Please explain if you're comfortable.
- Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 and talk about embracing suffering.
 - a. What reason did Paul give for having a “thorn in [his] flesh?”
 - b. How are human weakness and God's power connected?
 - c. Why are we strong when we are weak?
- Read Job 31:1-4, 33-37; 40:6-14; 42:1-7 and talk about suffering without understanding.
 - a. What does Job's innocence have to do with his appeal to God?
 - b. How does God answer Job? Does God provide understanding?
 - c. Do we have grounds to demand understanding from God? Why, or why not?
- Read Hebrews 2:10-18 and Revelation 21:1-7 and talk about what God does with evil and suffering.
 - a. What has God done about suffering in the world?
 - b. What will He do about it?
 - c. How does this impact our attitude towards suffering?

Let's Act

- We can never be 100% prepared for a time of suffering. However, while you are not in the midst of suffering, take some time to write down an action plan for how you will lean into God and embrace suffering the next time you experience it. Perhaps ask help from a Christ follower who has made it through suffering with God.

