

Reconstruction

Week 2: The Problem of Pain and Suffering in the world

CCV Groups Discussion Guide

Opening Question:

Ashley reminded us that pain isn't a signal to run away from God, but our cue to run to Him for hope. How did this message give you hope in this midst of current pain or suffering in your life?

Groups [Video Guide](#)

Read it again:

- [Psalm 23](#)

Discuss:

- Share a time you experienced a season of pain and suffering?
- Read [2 Corinthians 1:3-4](#), [Hebrews 4:15-16](#), [Psalm 23:4](#) out loud. What do these verses say about God and humanity in times of pain and suffering?
- How might the truths in these verses help you achieve mental and spiritual victory over suffering?
- What are some spiritual disciplines that Christians are invited to practice to help us keep the right perspective in times of pain and suffering?

Prayer:

Have in mind a current pain or struggle for you or a family member/friend. Pray through the main points of Ashley's message for these current situations that they would (1) feel the love of God, (2) experience freedom in or from the pain, and (3) that the pain would produce fruit in their lives and others around them.

Scriptures:

- **Romans 8:28**, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."
- **Romans 5:3-5**, "More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."
- **Jeremiah 29:11**, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."
- **James 1:2-3**, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness."
- **John 9:1-41**, "As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work on the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world... ."
- **Revelation 21:4**, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."
- **Romans 8:18**, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."
- **Matthew 5:45**, "So that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."
- **John 3:16**, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."
- **Isaiah 57:1**, "The righteous man perishes, and no one lays it to heart; devout men are taken away, while no one understands. For the righteous man is taken away from calamity."

- **John 16:33**, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."
- **Genesis 50:20**, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."
- **Job 14:1**, "Man, who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble."
- **Luke 18:19**, "And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone."