

WEEK 2: RESILIENT IN SUFFERING

Philippians 1:12-26

1. GOD CAN BRING GOOD OUT OF THE WORST THINGS THAT HAPPEN TO US
2. HOW WE DEFINE OUR LIVES DETERMINES HOW WE SUFFER

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What part of this week's teaching stood out to you the most? Why?
2. Even though he was doing everything right Paul still faced all kinds of hardship in his life. This included being falsely accused, being thrown in jail and losing the freedom to do the things he loved to do. How do you think you'd respond if you went through all that Paul went through even while he was doing what God called him to do?
3. One of the ways that God can use our suffering for good is when it gives us the ability to help others. Have you ever been able to positively impact someone's life because of the pain you've experienced in your own life? Has someone else ever positively impacted you because of a difficulty they had gone through?
4. Of the three ways we looked at that God can use our suffering (for His good, for others' good or for our own good) which have you seen the most in your life? Do you have any examples you can share?
5. Suffering doesn't automatically refine us. How we define our lives determines how we suffer and who we become as a result of suffering. How do you define your life? Where do you look for your meaning, value and purpose? What thing, if you lost it, would make your life no longer worth living?
6. It isn't always easy to put Jesus at the center of our lives. The application this week to help us grow in this area is to "go back to the gospel". How do you do this? Why is it so important to do this?
7. Pastor Ryan shared a story about a pastor from Tennessee whose mom was kicked out of her church mid-service when he and his brothers were just kids. This led him to deciding to start a church where people like his mom would be welcome. Have you ever experienced hurt in the church? How did you respond? How can we honestly address the suffering that many people have experienced at the hands of the "church" while still being the Church and pointing people to Jesus?