

WEEK 3

How Can God Allow Suffering?

I PETER 2:18-24

1. Is God judging me when I suffer? (1 Peter 2:19-20a)

- We suffer because we live in a sinful world.
- We suffer because others sin against us.
- We suffer because of our own sin.

“A man reaps what he sows.” (Galatians 6:7 NIV)

“A man’s own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the Lord.” (Proverbs 19:3)

2. Is God able to redeem my suffering?

- Suffering can bring us to God.
- Suffering can bring maturity.

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” (James 1:2-4)

- Suffering can bring a longing for a better place.

3. Is God there when I suffer? (1 Peter 2:21-24)

- God suffers with us.
- God suffers for us.

Discussion Starters:

- How do you feel about this message?
- In what ways have you experienced suffering because of the sin of others?
- What do you think about the idea that we sometimes suffer because of our own sin? Do you have an example from your own life?
- How has this talk changed or challenged your view of suffering?
- Can you see how God could use your suffering for good? Why or why not?
- What do you think about the idea that God's goal for us in our short time on earth is not just to make us happy but to prepare us for eternity?

Book Recommendation:

- Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering (TIMOTHY KELLER)