



Part 2: The Question of Suffering  
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## The Tough Truth about Suffering

- Suffering was not a part of God's original design (*Genesis 1-2*)
- Suffering is expected (*John 16:33 and James 1:2*)
- Christians are not immune from suffering (*2 Corinthians 12:8-10, Isaiah 53*)

## The Origins of Suffering

- Some of the suffering I endure is because of my own sinful decisions (*Galatians 6:7-8*)
- Some of the suffering I endure is the result of direct sin against me (*Genesis 37:18-20*)
- Some of the suffering I endure is the result of indirect sin in our world (*Genesis 6:5-8*)
- Some of the suffering I endure is because I live in a world broken by sin (*Genesis 3 and Romans 8:22-23*)
- Some of the suffering I endure is the result of Satan's destructive plan for those who love God (*John 10:10 and Ephesians 2:1-2*)

## Where is God in my suffering?

Here with me (*Psalms 23 and Deuteronomy 8:15-16*)

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## What's good about suffering?

- Suffering draws me closer to God (*John 9:1-38*)
- Suffering deepens my faith (*1 Peter 5:8-10 and Romans 5:3-4*)
- Suffering reveals my true character (*Job 23:10 and Psalm 139:23-24*)
- Suffering refines me (*Hebrews 5:8, 1 Peter 1:7*)
- Suffering softens my heart toward others who are hurting (*2 Corinthians 1:3-5*)

## Why doesn't God just make it stop?

1. Just because it hasn't happened yet doesn't mean it won't happen (*Proverbs 24:20 and Revelation 21:1-4*)
2. You (*2 Peter 3:9*)

## Next Steps

### Foundations: Building A New Life with Christ

This class answers questions that will help you build your life on a strong foundation. You will discover: who God and Jesus are, who we are in God's eyes, what Jesus accomplished, and much more. For more information, contact Jayne Doll ([jayned@ctkbellingham.com](mailto:jayned@ctkbellingham.com)) or visit the Connection Point.

### Small Group Questions



- 1) Our topic this week is heavy so let's start out on the positive. What is the best thing that has happened to you in the past month?
- 2) Have you ever brought suffering on yourself? Did you reap what you sowed?
- 3) What type of suffering is hard for you to understand? Has it ever caused you to doubt God's love or protection?
- 4) Where and how do you find God in the midst of suffering? Can you find any verses to bring hope into the situation?
- 5) Has pain ever produced anything of a spiritually positive nature in your life? Have you been able to thank God for it?
- 6) Pray for someone who you know is suffering this week. It's good to get our eyes off ourselves for a moment. Now pray for God's strength to be "here with me" in your own situation.