

"The Purpose of Suffering" 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Big Idea: Our suffering always has a purpose, because God's sovereign over it.

- In our suffering, we receive God's <u>comfort</u>.
 (2 Corinthians 1:3-4a)
- 2. In our suffering, we learn to <u>comfort others</u>. (2 Corinthians 1:4b, 6-7))
- 3. In our suffering, we grow <u>closer to Jesus</u>. (2 Corinthians 1:5)

Download "The Purpose of Suffering", by Eric Creekmore (03/24/24) free, or share it via email, Facebook, or Twitter at hcbc.com/media.

MY APPLICATION

Use the following questions this week to reflect on what it would mean to align yourself with the truths taught in Scripture. Each question is meant for both personal reflection and as a catalyst for discussion with your family and friends.

- 1. Share about a time where you went through a season of suffering. What lessons did God teach you during that time?
- 2. Read 2 Cor 1:3-4a. What strikes you about how God is described here? How have you received God's comfort?
- 3. Read 2 Cor 1:4b, 6-7. Have you ever had God use you to comfort others from the lessons you learned in your suffering? Describe how that went.
- 4. Read 2 Cor 1:5. Have you ever considered that what you suffer is connected to the sufferings Jesus endured? How does that truth impact how we go through our suffering?
- 5. Of the five topics we discussed through the "All In" series, which of the five (Time, Truth, Treasure, Talent, Tears) is the one God is asking you to go all in with him? How will that look?

Memory Verse

For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

2 Corinthians 1:5 ESV