

THE WHY OF YOUR PAIN - 2 COR. 1:1-11 / OCT. 26

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Read & Pray

Read **2 Corinthians 1:1–11**. After reading, spend 60 seconds in silent listening prayer. What applications or thoughts about the text came into your mind? Might those be from the Spirit? Close with a prayer to God for wisdom to apply these truths.

Sermon Recap (to *apply*, not rehash the sermon)

Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:

- “Understanding the ‘why’ behind your pain gives you the ability to put up with the ‘what.’”
- “God spends a lifetime taking the simple things you know [in your head] and making them experienced realities [in your heart].”
- “What is God doing in your pain? He’s tearing that unbelieving, self-reliant, proud skin off of you ... peeling off the skin of the dragon.”
- “Prayer turns the angle of the wind in someone’s life so that pain drives them toward Jesus ... rather than making them bitter and resentful.”

Group Discussion

1. What do we learn about God from 2 Corinthians 1:3–7? How does that shape your view of God and encourage you?
2. Paul learned to rely not on himself but on God who raises the dead. In what areas of your life is God teaching you this same lesson?
3. Paul says suffering equips us to comfort others. Where have you received God’s comfort, and how might that shape the way you come alongside someone now?
4. Pastor J.D. defined comfort as “coming alongside,” not just sympathy. What would wise, loving “coming alongside” look like in our small group?
5. When praying for someone who is suffering, how can we move beyond just asking for relief to pray for God’s deeper purposes to be fulfilled?

CHALLENGE

- ☐ As a **family member** in Christ, you are called to bear one another's burdens. This week, identify one person in your life who is suffering. Instead of only saying, “I’ll pray for you,” pray with them in person or over the phone, asking God to give them strength and reveal his purpose.

PRAYER

- Ask God to reveal his redemptive purposes in
- ☐ our pain so that we learn to rely not on ourselves but on him who raises the dead.
- ☐ Pray that God would use our afflictions to equip us to comfort others with the specific comfort that we ourselves have received from him in Christ.