

Series: Called Out of Darkness

Title: The Right Side of Suffering

Text: 1 Peter 4:1-6

Accountability: Share about any ways you applied lessons from the previous week/meeting.

Conversation Starter:

What comes to your mind when you think about the topic of suffering? Have you suffered since being a Christian? How did that affect your walk?

Synopsis: Suffering is something that everyone would prefer not to go through, yet through suffering, we are able to grow closer to Christ. Suffering gives us an eternal perspective as it reminds us that we should not live to please the flesh, but rather to do the will of God. As Christians, we should expect seasons of suffering, especially through persecution and maligning from the world. We must be reminded that suffering refines our character, prepares us for more, allows us to relate to others who are also suffering, and ultimately draws us closer to God.

Dig: Read the various texts above

1. 1 Peter 4:4 says that the world will malign us for not participating in pursuits of the flesh. Have you ever been persecuted or maligned for being a Christian? How did that affect you?
2. Do you hold onto any misconceptions when it comes to suffering as a Christian? (IE - In order to be close to Christ I must suffer, Good seasons means that I am distant from God, Christians are protected from suffering etc.)
3. Seasons of suffering can oftentimes bring us closer to the Lord because we realize that nothing else can sustain us other than God. Share about an experience in which this was true for you.
4. Suffering allows us to relate to others who are hurting. Have you ever been comforted by someone who experienced something that you were suffering through? Have you been on the comforting end in which your past experience allowed you to comfort someone else? How did that go?

Application:

1. If anyone is suffering in your CG, please pray for them.
2. If you are currently not going through a season of suffering, equip yourself by studying God's word by finding verses that will comfort and remind you of God's love and sovereignty this week.

Kids Questions:

1. What does it mean to suffer?
2. Can you think of a time that Jesus suffered? What happened?
3. What is an example of a time that you suffered? What did you do in response?