



Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

USE THIS GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS IN COMMUNITY GROUP.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

The Big Idea

God permits suffering because there is purpose in suffering.

Message Summary

One thing we all have in common is suffering. Another thing we have in common is not always understanding the reason we suffer. After all, most people who stumble in their belief of a good God do so as a result of pain. But as we learn in Week 4 of our disCOMFORT series, there is a point to the pain, and our Father not only doesn't waste it, He uses it to achieve at least 4 purposes in our lives.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What kind of pain affects your life the most: physical or emotional?
- Which of the 4 purposes that Paul taught (to make us like Christ, to teach us to trust, to warn the world, and to comfort the hurting) resonated the most with you? Can you think of other purposes for the suffering we all experience?
- Read 1 Peter 4:12-19
- What false assumption does Peter set straight in verse 12?
- How is rejoicing in suffering different from just enduring suffering? What is meant by "rejoice?"
- According to verse 19, what is the first and most important action we should take when we are suffering?
- When have you participated in something difficult that eventually became a success (v. 13)?
- What form does your suffering for Christ take? How does verse 19 comfort and assure you?