



Take Heart

03.22.2015

For the Christian, suffering is _____
_____, not the vengeance of an angry God.

For the Christian, suffering is never _____.
It is a place to find _____, not
_____.

For the Christian, suffering is _____,
both in this world and the world to come.

For the Christian, suffering is not _____
_____ in our lives.

John 16

study questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.



INTRODUCTION

There are many different forms of suffering. It can be physical or emotional, cause by us or by others; it can be the product of sin, the temptation to sin and can even happen to a righteous person. We all experience it, but for the Jesus-follower there can be hope, growth, greater intimacy with God, and even joy through suffering.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In general, how do you think about suffering, discomfort or pain? What is your knee-jerk reaction when you experience it?
2. Where are you experiencing suffering right now? How can this be used to draw you closer to Christ, rather than away from him?
3. Try this exercise: From a worldly perspective (one without the hope of heaven, the existence of God, the presence of the Holy Spirit), how can you respond to suffering? Make a list of your options.
4. Now, do the same exercise from a biblical perspective. From a perspective that includes all the promises of Jesus in John 16, how can you respond to suffering? Make a list of all the possibilities.
5. Read James 1:2-4. In what ways does this challenge or encourage your mindset about trials and suffering? How can you begin live into this perspective?