



UNDERSTANDING PAIN

What is the best way for us to handle trials and difficulty?

We handle trouble best through **PRAYER** and **RELATIONSHIP**.

How does God use the painful events of our lives?

God uses the circumstances of the world to **DEMONSTRATE** His glory.

How does God see things differently than we do?

The love of God can be **PAINFUL**.

The wisdom of God can be **CONFOUNDING**.

The perspective of God is **ETERNAL**.

How can I get the **POWER** to survive the pains of life?



Life Group Questions and Study Material for the Week of March 16, 2025

When pain and difficult circumstances come in life, we are vulnerable to making poor decisions and even questioning our faith. Rather than spiraling into despair and doubt it is important to rely on Jesus. Faith to follow Jesus in difficult seasons is a choice. The choice to trust Him is less about a big moment of faith, and more about a rhythm of daily trust and obedience. (Luke 16.10)

- What hinders you from fully trusting God during times of difficulty?
- What helps you trust and obey while waiting on God during difficult seasons?
- What can you learn from the example of Mary and Martha is asking Jesus for help?
 - Is he the first one you reach out to, or is he a God of last resort?
 - What does the scripture say about calling on God during times of difficulty? (James 1.2-7)

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

- Why is a relationship with Jesus so important to surviving difficult trials?
- Aside from a relationship with Jesus, a relationship with other church members is essential (Ephesians 4.11-16). Is the gathering of the body (the weekend service) for the teaching of God's Word, and daily support (Life Group) a priority in your life, and why?
- How can God use the circumstances of the world to display his glory? How does his glory get revealed in your life when trouble comes?
- If Jesus loved Mary and Martha, why did he wait? Why did Jesus say that he was glad he wasn't there to heal Lazarus? Is he being cold and callous? How can understanding that God's perspective is different than yours bring you comfort?
 - What are you waiting on God for right now in your life? Does knowing He loves you help you waiting patiently? Why or why not?
- How does the gospel transform our understanding and approach to dealing with painful circumstances?
- What hindrances to growth need to be eliminated on your way to maturity in this area?

