**Suffering for the Glory of God**

**Week 1: The Problem of Suffering and the Bible’s Answer**

*The wisdom of God and a call to trust*

**Week 2: God’s Revealed Purposes for Suffering**

*How God can use suffering for our good and His glory*

**Week 3: The Future of Suffering**

*The importance of heaven and hell for a suffering Christian*

**Week 4: God’s Grief over Suffering**

*The empathy of a suffering God*

**Week 5: Unbiblical Reactions to Suffering**

*Temptations to find hope in what is passing away*

**Week 6: Fighting for faith, Part 1**

*Struggling for faith in God’s sovereignty and goodness*

**Week 7: Fighting for faith, Part 2**

*Helping others fight for faith in the local church*

**Week 8: Sharing Their Burdens**

*A biblical perspective on the relief of physical suffering*

**Week 9: Suffering as Witness**

*Making the most of your suffering for the glory of God*

**Week 10: Applying the Framework**

*Suffering through illness*

**Week 11: Suffering for the gospel**

*Biblical wisdom for the persecuted*

**Week 12: The Secret of Contentment**

*Finding joy in Christ in any and every situation*

**Week 13: Panel Discussion**

**Questions?** Email

***Core Seminars—Suffering for God’s Glory***

**Class 2: God’s Revealed Purposes**

**for Suffering**

*How God can use suffering for our good and His glory*

1. **Introduction**

The dangers of studying God’s purposes in suffering

*Danger #1: we might think we should always know his purposes ( Is. 55: 8-9; Heb. 13:8)*

*Danger #2: perfect understanding would leave no room for faith (Heb. 11:6)*

*Danger #3: normally, it’s not helpful to hypothesize why others are suffering (Prov. 22:20)*

1. **Suffering is a Gift!?**

* *Phil 1:29 “granted…to suffer for him”*
* *Luke 9: 23-25 “whoever loses his life for me will save it”*
* *Acts 5:41 “counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name”*

We suffering to take hold of something better. That’s why it’s a gift.

1. **God’s Revealed Purposes**
2. To grow us in holiness

* Ps. 119:67 “ …now I obey your word”

1. To build perseverance

* Rom 5:3 “…suffering produces perserverance”

1. To grow us in maturity

* Jas 1:2-3 “…so that you may be mature”

1. To teach us His word

* Ps 119:71 “so that I might learn your decrees”

1. To help us encourage others

* 2 Cor 1:3-4 “…so that we can comfort those in any trouble”

1. To wean us off self-reliance

* 2 Cor 1: 8b-9 “…so that we might not rely on ourselves but on God”

1. To strengthen our assurance

* Heb 12:7-8 “God is treating you as sons”
* 1 Pet 1:6-7 “…so that your faith…may be proved genuine”

1. To glorify God

* Phil 3:7-8 “…for whose sake I have lost all things”

1. **Conclusion**
   1. Avoid the danger of *needing* to know.
   2. Praise God for how much he’s already told us of how he uses suffering for good.