**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: Panel Discussion**

**Week 13: The Secret of Contentment**

 *Finding joy in Christ in any and every situation*

**Questions?** [Give Email addresses of teachers]

***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. 20:5)

1. **Suffering is a Gift!?**
* Phil 1:29 “granted…to suffer for him”
* Luke 9:23-25 “whoever loses his life for my sake will save it”

We suffer 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 keep your word”
1. To build perseverance (endurance)
* Rom 5:3 “…suffering produces endurance”
1. To grow us in maturity
* Jas 1:2-3 “…so that you may be perfect and complete..”
1. To teach us His word
* Ps 119:71 “that I might learn your statutes”
1. To help us encourage others
* 2 Cor 1:3-4 “…so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction”
1. To wean us off self-reliance
* 2 Cor 1:8b-9 “…to make us rely not 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 found to result in praise…at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”
1. To glorify God
* Heb 11:24-26 Moses “…considered the reproach of Christ greater…”
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.