

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

God's purposes always supersede the enemy's plans in suffering.

SUFFERING, ENTRUSTING, AND DOING GOOD
1 Peter 4:12-19

1. REVIEW

Describe a time you ended up being thankful for God's purposes after a trial or suffering.

Read 1 Peter 4:12-19. What is suffering according to God's will?

How would you reconcile a God who loves with a God who allows (and maybe even causes) suffering?

2. ASSESS

What does it look like for you to entrust your soul to God while suffering?

What does doing good in the midst of suffering look like for you?

3. APPLY

We will all need this. Some right now. Some later. Which are you? How will you adjust your attitudes, actions, and affections to align with these truths?

Commit to studying and memorizing the book of 1 Peter throughout our GRACE+PEACE series. Download the study guide here: www.harvestindysouth.org/graceandpeaceresources

MY GROUP'S APPLICATIONS

SERMON NOTES

3 QUESTIONS:

What is suffering according to God's will?

What does it look like to entrust my soul to God while suffering?

What does doing good in the midst of suffering look like?

FOR FURTHER STUDY...

Q1. Where does pain, suffering, and death come from?

A1. All pain, suffering, and death are a result of the fall. (Genesis 3, Romans 5:12-13 12)

Q2. Why does God allow pain and suffering?

A2. God allows it because he chooses to allow it. Suffering is hard. Pain is difficult. Not a single person alive truly enjoys suffering. But God is so good that he allows us to experience the consequence of sin directly (when we sin) and indirectly (when we experience a broken world).

Think back on your life experiences. If you never experienced any pain, how would you ever know of your need for a Savior? By allowing us to experience the consequence of a broken world, God is helping us to see our need for a Savior. To see that the world wasn't meant to be this way - and to have a hope ahead for a future where God will redeem and restore all of creation

Q3. Now, a more challenging question: does God ever cause pain and suffering?

A3. Yes, God not only allows pain and suffering, he is sometimes the direct cause.

This feels so wrong to say in a world that is so focused on love and comfort. To say that a loving God would CAUSE pain and suffering feels wrong - but our feelings are often poor discerners of the truth. If you look deeply at the book of Job, you'll see the story of a man who was essentially tortured by Satan with God's permission. This part of the story leads us to see that we can confirm that God allows pain and suffering. God didn't directly cause Job's suffering. So you might say that he allowed it.

But that's not what Job would say. (Job 1:21-22, Job 2:10-11, Job 42:11)

Job himself believed that the misery came from God and the writer of Job makes an extra effort not to correct him.

In the New Testament, the write of Hebrews gives us a different perspective on the same topic...

Hebrews 12:7-11 "10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

God can and does cause pain and suffering. Not out of unrighteous anger, not out of spite, but out of love and care. Out of a specific desire to see his children grow - and to see others turn to him. What love is it if God allows people to get whatever they want all the while moving along without him? A good father disciplines his children to teach them what's right and what's best. God is no different - in fact, he's only different insomuch as he's perfect. His discipline is perfect. His actions are perfect. Everything he does is perfect because it flows from who he is.

5 DAY READING PLAN

DAY 1

1 PETER 4:12-13

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How should I respond?

DAY 2

1 PETER 4:14

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How should I respond?

DAY 3

1 PETER 4:15-16

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How should I respond?

DAY 4

1 PETER 4:17

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How should I respond?

DAY 5

1 PETER 4:18-19

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How should I respond?