

# Walking With God

## Through Seasons of Suffering

*Each new morn new widows howl, new orphans cry,  
new sorrows strike heaven on the face.*

William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*

Suffering is everywhere and at times unavoidable. Timothy Keller calls this reality *the rumble of panic beneath everything*.<sup>1</sup> The Bible reveals that this rumble started when Adam and Eve sinned in Genesis 3 and no amount of money, power, or politicking can remove this rumble from our story. Eventually suffering visits us all.

As I write the introduction to this series, I am aware of at least 20 people in our church who are going through a season of sorrow.

The suffering these good people are facing is diverse. Cancer, financial disaster, divorce, infertility, infidelity, the death of a loved one, suicide, a strained relationship with a family member, a debilitating illness, a fatal diagnosis, and personal betrayals are just a few of the hardships that people in our church are walking through.

These people are not rebellious or backslidden. They are faithful, focused followers of Jesus. They are beloved children of the Heavenly Father. They are courageous and prayerful and yet they suffer.

Here is the truth that the suffering in our church reveals: ***Life is fragile and we are subject to forces beyond our ability to control.***

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon expressed this truth with these words: *The road to sorrow has been well trodden. It is the regular sheep track to heaven, and all the flock of God have had to pass along it.*<sup>2</sup>

In light of this reality, we all need to know how to walk with God through seasons of suffering. We need to know how to pray when we don't know what to pray. We need to know how to stay afloat when sorrows like sea billows roll. We need to know what God has provided to rescue us from despair when the darkness will not lift. We need to know how to *bless the LORD at all times*<sup>3</sup> when what we want to do is shake our fist at heaven.

This next series at Faith is about learning to walk with God through our seasons of sorrow. In addressing this topic, we are well aware that we have little to offer those who suffer other than this reality: *The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*<sup>4</sup>

Our simple prayer for Faith during this season is that we would find this verse to be as true as the sorrows we face so that we live well and even joyfully when the darkness refuses to lift.

Every blessing,  
Pastor Charlie for the Teaching Team

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1 Timothy Keller, *Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering*

2 Charles Spurgeon, *The Fainting Hero*

3 Psalm 34:1

4 Psalm 34:18



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# INTRODUCTION TO SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

No one is born into this world with a theology. So each generation must rediscover the truths of Scripture for itself.

Preaching the Bible is the primary tool God has given the church for this to take place.

Small groups are the place where the preaching at Faith is applied and where our church is encouraged to live out God's word. Members of Faith's small groups take time each week to discuss the previous Sunday's sermon, share specific insights from the Bible, and care for one another so that as a church we grow up to maturity in Jesus.

This study guide has been put together to give you an overview of our current sermon series so that you know where we are going and so that you are prepared for great discussions in your small group.

Here is an overview of what you will find for each week in this study guide.

**Main Passage** – This is the passage the teaching pastor will preach from.

**Secondary Passages** – These passages help to unpack and explain the main passage.

**Passage for Memorization and Meditation** – This is one passage to memorize and meditate on throughout the week so that at all times you are giving Jesus an opportunity to work in your life.

**Overview** – This is an overview of what will be discussed in small group this week.

**Opening Question** – This is a general question meant to spark conversation.

**Discussion Questions** – These are questions related to the Bible passages.

**Application Section** – These are questions and ideas for applying the Bible to your life.

**Table Time With Kids** – These are questions and ideas for families with kids.

These materials are not meant to be a rigid formula for your small group, but rather a means for intentional study, discussion, and life application so that ultimately, as a church, we grow together to maturity in Jesus.

We hope you find this helpful.



## **What is a small group?**

Small groups at Faith are small gatherings of people from Faith that meet regularly for friendship, prayer, and Bible Study.

Each small group is unique because it is shaped by the people who attend. However, at the heart of each small group is a desire to see a tight-knit community form that is marked by a growing love for Jesus and for the other people in the small group.

## **Why should I join a small group?**

We are made for friendship with God and others. When we are not known and loved by others, we suffer because we are not experiencing all that God created us to experience. Additionally, life is too difficult to journey alone. Therefore, small groups are a place where we can connect in friendship with other people through the ups and downs of life.

## **How do I get connected to a small group?**

The easiest way to get connected to a small group is to go to [www.faithefc.org/small\\_group](http://www.faithefc.org/small_group). You can also sign up on Sunday by filling out the Bluebook. Finally, if you would like to join a small group, you can call the church at 970-226-2095.



*Suffering tears us apart if we are uncertain of God's love for us.*

Martin Luther

*Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever....*

*Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust.*

Elie Wiesel, *Night*

**Title:** The Unimaginable

**Main Passage:** Job 1:1-22

**Secondary Passages:** Hebrews 4:14 – 16, John 3:16 – 17, 2 Corinthians 8:9, Psalm 34:18, John 11:1 - 44

**Passage for Memorization and Meditation:**

*Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."*

Job 1:20-21

**Overview:** Life is hard and at times terribly unfair. A cursory look at the last 100 years of human history shows this to be true. But most of us don't need to look that far. We have our own stories of walking through dark valleys of suffering and the scars to prove we were there.

Our visceral response to suffering is often doubt and disbelief. We can't imagine why a good God would allow something so horrific to happen. We can't comprehend why God doesn't lift the dark cloud of depression. If God is good, he wouldn't want us to suffer. If God is powerful, he could remove our suffering. And yet suffering exists, so either God doesn't exist or he isn't as powerful and good as he claims to be. So unimaginable suffering can make God's existence unreal to our hearts.

This was what happened to Elie Wiesel during his dark nights in a Nazi death camp as he witnessed the slaughter of countless innocent men, women, and children. The unimaginable suffering around him destroyed his faith in God.

It should be said that doubt and disbelief are understandable responses to suffering, and yet it is equally important to affirm that they are not the only response. Other people have responded to suffering with weeping and worship.

We see this response perhaps most clearly in the story of Job.

Job was a righteous man who lost everything including his family, his health, and his wealth. During this time, Job learned the hard lesson that he was never in control of his life and he could not save himself.

Throughout most of his hardship, God appeared absent and uninvolved. He wasn't, of course, but Job didn't know this. All Job knew was that his life was coming apart at the seams.

And yet miraculously, Job worshiped the Lord during his suffering. ***Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his***

***head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.”<sup>1</sup>***

As Job’s story unfolds, we see that Job continues this pattern of weeping and worshiping. He continues to believe in God’s goodness, even when the darkness hid God’s face. He continues to believe God loved him, even when God’s will didn’t make any sense.

Job’s response to suffering is available to all of us through Jesus, because Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection reveals that despite all the unimaginable suffering around us, God loves us and will rescue us from suffering, sickness, evil, and sorrow. Jesus suffered, so we can have hope when we suffer. Jesus is able to save, because he didn’t save himself. Jesus entered and endured suffering to put an end to it, and he invites us to worship and weep until his work against suffering is finished.

### ***Opening Question:***

- What kind of questions do people ask when they go through seasons of suffering?

### ***Discussion Questions:***

- Read Job 1:1 - 22. What sticks out to you from these passages?
- What does Job 1:1 – 22 reveal about God?
- What does Job 1:1 – 22 reveal about the world we live in?
- What does Job 1:1 – 22 reveal about suffering?
- Look closely at verses 20 – 22. How does Job respond to the suffering he faces?
- Read Hebrews 4:14 – 16, John 3:16 – 17, 2 Corinthians 8:9, Psalm 34:18 and John 11:1 – 44. What do these verses reveal about God’s heart for those who suffer?
- In what ways does Jesus’ death on the cross reveal that God cares about suffering and sorrow?

### ***Application Section:***

- Talk about a time in your life when you experienced suffering. How did you respond to the suffering you faced?
- What makes it difficult for you to believe that God loves you when you suffer?
- What is one area of your life in which you’re currently suffering? How can this group encourage you during this season?

## **Table Time With Kids:**

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- Read Job 1:1 - 22. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- Do good people experience suffering? *Yes. Until Jesus returns, all people will go through difficult times.*
- Does God ever abandon us? *No. At times we may feel like he has abandoned us, but Jesus’ death on the cross reveals that God never abandons us.*

*It is only when we get truly honest with God and ourselves that he can begin to heal and restore the holes in our hearts.*

Jennie Allen

**Title:** Lamenting

**Main Passages:** Psalm 88:1 – 18, Psalm 22:1 – 2, Isaiah 43:1 – 2

**Secondary Passages:** 1 Samuel 1:1 – 20, Job 3:1, Job 10:3, Job 30:19 – 20, Psalm 6:1 – 10, John 11:1 – 44

**Passage for Memorization and Meditation:**

*Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus wept.*

John 11:35

**Overview:** Some of the worst advice we can give to those going through a season of suffering is that they need to pull themselves together.

Sadly, in our day this has been offered by many well intended but misguided Christians. The thought is that falling apart and weeping demonstrate a lack of faith - that those who trust God most fully won't feel hurt, depression, frustration, disappointment, hopelessness, or anger. But this thinking isn't Biblical.

Instead, in the Bible we see that men and women of great faith weep. For instance, Hannah wept bitterly when she was faced with infertility.<sup>1</sup> Job cursed the day he was born and came close to charging God with injustice in his frustration and pain.<sup>2</sup> The Psalmists frequently expressed bad theology in their times of sorrow by declaring that God had forsaken them,<sup>3</sup> that God had cast them away and that God had hid himself.<sup>4</sup> None of this is true, but this certainly captures how we feel when we walk through seasons of suffering and sorrow.

The implication of these examples is this: *God welcomes honest expressions of sorrow.*

In other words, God wants us to come to him as we are. He wants us to express how we feel. So expressing anger, hurt, frustration, and sorrow to God isn't a sign of unbelief. It is a bold demonstration of faith that God welcomes us as we are, even when coming as we are means we come to God with our doubt and disappointment.

Timothy Keller expresses this well with this word: *[Weeping demonstrates belief] that Jesus Christ is attracted to hopeless cases. He cares for the fragile. He loves people who are beaten and battered and bruised.*<sup>5</sup>

So those of us who walk through dark times can express our faith in Jesus by coming to him as we are, by giving voice

1 1 Samuel 1:7, 10

2 Job 3:1; 10:3; 30:19 - 20

3 Psalm 22:1

4 Psalm 88:14

5 Timothy Keller, *Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering*

to our feelings of anger, betrayal, and doubt, and by trusting that in his perfect time Jesus will heal and restore.

This exercise of faith is called lamenting and it should be said that lamenting doesn't remove the sorrow and replace it with happiness. Instead, lamenting increases our awareness of God's presence in our suffering, which helps us rise above our dark feelings, even though they are real and ominous.

**Opening Question:**

- What is some of the worst advice you have heard given to someone who is going through a tough time?

**Discussion Questions:**

- Read Psalm 88:1 – 18 and Psalm 22:1 - 2. What sticks out to you from these passages?
- Based on these passages how are we to come to God when we experience suffering?
- In these psalms the author expresses feelings about God that are not true (i.e. God has forsaken me, God has hidden his face from me). What does it reveal about God that he allows these feelings to be expressed in the Bible?
- Read Isaiah 43:1 – 2. What promises does God make to you in these verses?

**Application Section:**

- What are some reasons why people are uncomfortable expressing feelings of doubt, anger, disappointment, and betrayal to God and other people?
- How comfortable are you expressing your feelings to God and other people?
- Is there anything that keeps you from coming to God as you are, even if that means coming with feelings of doubt, discouragement, and despair?
- Talk about a time when you felt abandoned by God. What did you do in that season?

## Table Time With Kids:

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- Read Psalm 22:1 - 2. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- Read Isaiah 43:1 – 2. What promises does God make to you in these verses?
- Will there be moments in your life when you feel abandoned by God? *Yes. Even those who walk closest to God, at times feel abandoned.*
- What does God want you to do with these feelings? *God wants you to express these feelings to him and to other people.*
- Does God get angry when you feel upset? *No. God wants you to share your hurt with him.*

*God gives us what we would have asked for if we knew everything that he knows.*

Timothy Keller

*Gratitude is a memory of God's heart and to thank is to remember God.*

Ann Voskamp

**Title:** Thanksgiving

**Main Passages:** Psalm 34:1 - 8, Philippians 4:4 - 7

**Secondary Passages:** Ephesians 5:20, Psalm 136:1 - 26

**Passage for Memorization and Meditation:**

*The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!*

Psalm 50:23

**Overview:** A long season of suffering can lead to an anxious heart. We can become overwhelmed when the darkness doesn't lift. We can give in to feelings of despair, hopelessness, bitterness, and despondency. This has been the path many have walked during times of sorrow, but this doesn't have to be our experience.

In the midst of suffering we can bless the Lord, offer thanksgiving, and rejoice in the Lord. Choosing this path finds us experiencing a peace that passes understanding, tasting and seeing that the Lord is good, and believing God's ways are higher and better than our own.

Thanksgiving in the midst of suffering is counterintuitive. We tend to praise God for the good seasons, for a spouse who loves, for healthy kids, for the home we always dreamed of, for a fulfilling career. And yet God invites us to give thanks, rejoice, and praise him at all times.

This means we can thank God during seasons of sorrow not because suffering is good, but because during these times we come to know God on new levels, and we see him work in ways we have only heard about.

Thanksgiving during seasons of suffering is a discipline. It won't come naturally and it won't be easy. But genuine thankfulness can come as we open our eyes to see and as we open our lips to declare God's goodness to us even in our seasons of suffering.

Do you believe that? To the degree that you do, you will have peace and even joy in the darkest of times.

**Opening Question:**

- What is one thing that happened this past week that you are thankful for?

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Read Psalm 34:1 – 8. What sticks out to you from this passage?
- Why does the psalmist call us to praise the Lord at all times?
- What does Psalm 34:1 – 8 reveal about God?
- What does it mean to boast in the Lord?
- Read Philippians 4:4 – 7. What sticks out to you from this passage?
- According to Philippians 4:4 – 7, how do we find God when we are anxious?
- What promise does God make to you in Philippians 4:4 – 7?
- What does your heart need to be guarded from during times of sorrow?

### **Application Section:**

- What new things have you learned about God from going through hard times?
- Why is it hard for you to be thankful during hard times?
- What helps you to be thankful and remember that the Lord is good?
- In what ways have you seen that the Lord is good during this season of your life?
- What do you tend to do when you are anxious?
- Share some things that you are thankful for.

## **Table Time With Kids:**

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- Read Psalm 34:1 – 8. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- How often does God want you to praise him? *The Lord wants you to praise him continually.*
- Why do we praise God continually? *We praise God continually because he is good.*
- Read Philippians 4:4 – 7. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- How often does God want you to rejoice in him? *God wants you to rejoice in him always.*
- What can you do when you are anxious? *With thanksgiving you can let your request be known to God.*

*If God were small enough to be understood, he wouldn't be big enough to be worshipped.*

Evelyn Underhill

*It is utterly crucial that in our darkness we affirm the wise, strong hand of God to hold us, even when we have no strength to hold him.*

John Piper

**Title:** Trusting

**Main Passages:** Romans 8:18 - 39, Genesis 50:15 - 21

**Secondary Passages:** Psalm 42:4 - 6, Mark 14:32 - 42

**Passage for Memorization and Meditation:**

*And going a little farther, [Jesus] fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."*

Mark 14:35 - 36

**Overview:** In the Bible we are told that God is a good, strong, wise, and loving father<sup>1</sup> and that all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose.<sup>2</sup>

Including hard things? Including trials and tribulations? Including seasons of suffering and sorrow? Yes. Profoundly and mysteriously, God is good and he is working *all things* together for good for those who love him.

God's sovereignty over suffering is not a doctrine to debate. It is a life vest to keep us afloat when the waves of sorrow threaten to overwhelm us.

And so perhaps the most significant question we must answer during seasons of suffering is this: *Do I trust that God is a good, strong, wise, and loving father who is committed to doing what is best for me?*

Joseph faced this question when he was abandoned by his brothers and then wrongfully imprisoned by Potiphar. And most profoundly, Jesus faced this question in the Garden of Gethsemane. Miraculously, both men came to the same conclusion. The suffering they faced was part of God's good plan.

In moments when you suffer, Satan will tempt you to despair. He will whisper to you that God has forgotten you. In these moments, speak truth to battle the Serpent's lie. God is working all things together for good. Even this evil, God intends for good.<sup>3</sup>

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1 James 1:13, 17  
2 Romans 8:28  
3 Genesis 50:20

### **Opening Question:**

- What are different things that people trust in during seasons of suffering?

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Read Romans 8:18 – 39. What sticks out to you from this passage?
- What does Romans 8:18 – 39 reveal about the world that we live in?
- What does Romans 8:18 – 39 reveal about the suffering we face?
- What does Romans 8:18 – 39 reveal about God?
- What truth does God give to us in Romans 8:18 – 39 to help us trust him when we suffer?
- Read Genesis 50:15 – 21 and Mark 14:32 – 42. In what ways do Jesus and Joseph exemplify trusting God in seasons of suffering and sorrow?

### **Application Section:**

- Talk about a time when you struggled to trust God. What helped you to believe that he is a good, wise, and loving father who is working for your good?
- Talk about something good that God has done through a season of suffering.
- What are some lies that Satan tries to get you to believe during seasons of suffering?
- In what area of your life is it tempting to believe that God isn't working for good? Why is it difficult for you to trust God in that area?
- What can this small group do to help you to trust God?

## **Table Time With Kids:**

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- Read Romans 8:18 – 39. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- Why does suffering exist? *Suffering exists because Adam and Eve disobeyed God.*
- What promise does God give to us to help us when we suffer? *Suffering is temporary, it doesn't compare to what we will experience in glory, and God is working all things together for good.*
- Is suffering an indication that you are separated from God's love? *No. Nothing will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Make it your aim to love the hurting in a way that honors God and blesses your friend.*

David Furman

**Title:** Encouraging

**Main Passages:** 1 Kings 19:1 - 18, Romans 12:15, Galatians 6:2

**Secondary Passage:** Mark 2:1 - 12

**Passage for Memorization and Meditation:**

*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*

Romans 12:15

**Overview:** How do we love, serve, and care for those who are going through seasons of suffering?

This is such an important question to consider because the church isn't a place we swing by on Sundays; it is a community that journeys through life together and bears one another's burdens.

David Furman expresses this well with these words: *We bear one another's burdens in the church because Jesus bore our burdens. When we say that we can't afford the money or the time to help someone, what we mean is that we don't want that person's trial to interfere with our lives. We're not living in light of Jesus as our burden-bearer. If we are not willing to see ourselves burdened by others, we haven't fully understood Christ as the one who bore our burdens on the cross.*<sup>1</sup>

In 1 Corinthians 12:27 we are told that the church is the body of Christ. This means that when someone is facing a season of suffering, we need to be Jesus to that person.

So how do we do that?

1 Kings 19 is immensely helpful in answering this question. In 1 Kings 19, the prophet Elijah has come to the end of himself. He is depressed and despondent, so much so that Elijah asks God to end his life.

God doesn't grant Elijah's request, but he doesn't rebuke him for it either. Instead, as a gracious friend, God listens, encourages, and cares for Elijah. He gives him a good meal, he speaks grace and truth into his life, and he walks with him through the depression. In this, God shows us how he cares for us in our seasons of sorrow and how we can care for others.

**Opening Question:**

- What is one way that God has encouraged you this past week?

### ***Discussion Questions:***

- Read 1 Kings 19:1 - 18. What sticks out to you from this passage?
- What do you learn about God from this passage?
- In what ways does God encourage and care for Elijah during his season of suffering?
- Look at Romans 12:15 and Galatians 6:2. What is God's clear instruction to the church?
- What does it look like to weep with those who weep and bear one another's burdens?

### ***Application Section:***

- In what ways does God's care for Elijah help you as you think about caring for those who suffer?
- Talk about a time when someone was facing loss or pain and you didn't know what to say or do. How did you respond? Based on God's care for Elijah is there anything you would do differently?
- Talk about a time when someone helped you during a difficult season in your life. How was their presence a reminder of God's care and concern for you?
- Think of someone who is currently facing a difficult season. What can you do this week to be the body of Christ for that person? How can this group support you?

## **Table Time With Kids:**

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- Read 1 Kings 19:1 - 21. What sticks out to you from this passage?
- How would you describe Elijah in this story? *Elijah is going through a hard time.*
- How does God care for Elijah in this story? *God feeds, listens to, and speaks to Elijah.*
- Look at Romans 12:15. What does God want you to do when other people suffer?
- Do you know anyone who is suffering? What could you do to encourage them during this season?

*Human beings are hope-shaped creatures.*

*The way you live now is completely controlled by what you believe about the future.*

Timothy Keller

**Title:** The Final Cure

**Main Passages:** Revelation 21:1 - 8, Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 4:16 - 18

**Secondary Passage:** Revelation 22:1 - 21

**Passage for Memorization and Meditation:**

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

Revelation 21:3 - 4

**Overview:** One day Jesus will return and he will set right all that is broken in our world. He will raise the dead. He will wipe away our tears. He will bind up the brokenhearted, and suffering, sickness, sorrow, and death will be put away by our Lord Jesus forever.

This great day is coming, which means we can have strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. The best is yet to come.

This isn't pie in the sky thinking. Jesus' second coming is the consummation of human history. It is the final act in God's great story, and it will happen because God's promises never fail and the Promised One never disappoints. Therefore, there is nothing more practical for us to do during seasons of sorrow than to think about the great day when Jesus returns.

So as we wrap up this series on walking with God through seasons of suffering, consider for a moment what you believe about the future.

Do you believe that when you die, the story is over? That you go into the ground to be forgotten? Do you believe that the happiness you experience in this life is all the happiness you will ever get? Do you believe that what is lost cannot be found? That your aging body will never feel fresh again?

This is one way to think about the future.

But it isn't the future God offers us in Jesus. God offers a new heaven and a new earth. He offers a future of endless joy with resurrected bodies and reconciled relationships. He promises a final cure for suffering to anyone who will trust in his Son, Jesus.

When we embrace this view of the future we can say with the apostle Paul, *The sufferings of this present time are not*

worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.<sup>1</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.<sup>2</sup>

**Opening Question:**

- What has been one of the most helpful things God has revealed to you during this series?

**Discussion Questions:**

- Read Romans 8:18 and 2 Corinthians 4:16 – 18. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- How does Paul deal with suffering?
- Read Revelation 21:1 – 8. What sticks out to you from this passage?
- What does Revelation 21:1 – 8 reveal about God?
- What does Revelation 21:1 – 8 reveal about the future?
- Look at 2 Corinthians 8:9, Galatians 3:13, and Romans 5:10. What has Jesus done so that our future is certain?

**Application Section:**

- What helps you to remember that the best days are in front of you?
- What are you most looking forward to about Jesus' second coming?
- What hurt, pain, or tears in your life are you most looking forward to Jesus taking away?

## Table Time With Kids:

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- Read Revelation 21:1 – 8. What sticks out to you from this passage?
- Does God have a plan for history? *Yes. History is moving toward the return of Jesus.*
- When will Jesus return? *We don't know the exact date, but we do know that his return could happen at any moment.*
- What will Jesus do when he returns? *He will wipe away every tear and put away suffering forever.*
- What does God want us to do as we wait for Jesus to return? *He wants us to follow Jesus!*

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1 Romans 8:18

2 2 Corinthians 4:16 - 18