

# **SUFFERING HAS VALUE**

*January 22-28, 2020*

## **Day One:** Devotional

1. Read the following verses. Meditate upon them. Make them your prayer. Record anything you learn about suffering or anything that sticks out to you.

**2 Corinthians 4:17-18**

**Philippians 3:7-11**

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

2. How can you fix your eyes on Christ today? What difficulty, weakness, or loss do you need to give to him today?
3. Using the above verses, write out a prayer today. Ask him to help you to trust him, to know Christ, and to see how he will use our struggles to bring about glory.

## **Day Two:** Observations & Color Code

**Luke 9:22-24** “<sup>22</sup> And he said, ‘The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.’ <sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.’”

**Observations:**

**Romans 5:1-4** “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

**Observations:**

**2 Corinthians 1:3-7** “<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. <sup>5</sup> For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. <sup>6</sup> If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. <sup>7</sup> And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.”

**Observations:**

**1 Peter 4:12-16** “<sup>12</sup> Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup> If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.”

**Observations:**

**Day Three:** Method: Word Study

1. Choose your word. The first step to any word study would be to choose the word you are interested in and want to know more about. For the purpose of our study, we will be looking at the word **suffering**.
2. Find its English definition. Using an English dictionary, list out the definition of the word **suffering**. Also write out any synonyms or antonyms of the word.
  
3. Compare translations: Using the verses chosen that refer to this word, look at several different translations of the passages. What differences do you find? How does this help you to understand the word?

**Luke 9:22-24**

**Romans 5:1-4**

**2 Corinthians 1:3-7**

**1 Peter 4:12-16**

**Day Four:** Method Continued

4. Determine the word in the original language, and write down the definition. For this, you will need an exhaustive concordance, or you can also use a website called Study Light (this will be easier). For instructions on how to use Study Light, refer to page 7 of your study. Find the definition of the word used in one of the above verses.

5. Check the word's occurrences in the Bible. Looking at the frequency list (from study light), answer these questions:

How many times does the word occur in the Bible?

In what books does it occur?

What writers used the word?

In what book does it occur most?

Where does it occur first in the book I am studying?

6. Discover the word's usage in the Bible. Answer these questions. You can click on the frequency list to find other passages that use the same word.

How does the writer use the word in other parts of the book?

How does the writer use the word in other books he has written?

How is the word used throughout the whole Testament?

Does the word have more than one usage? If so, what are its other uses?

What is the most frequent use of the word?

How is it used the first time in the Scriptures?

7. How is the word used in the context of the passage? Look at the surrounding verses and answer these questions to better understand what the writer really meant by the word:

Does the context give any clues to the meaning of the word?

Is the word compared or contrasted with another word in the context?

Is there any illustration in the context that clarifies the meaning of the word?

**Day Five:** Application

1. After all you have learned about the word **suffering** in the Bible, do you agree or disagree with the statement “Suffering has value” and why?
2. How can you apply what you have learned? Write out a practical application.