

# PAIN



## GOD'S GATEWAY TO EMPATHY AND DEEPER RELATIONSHIPS

### SESSION 7

[HTTPS://WWW.COV-PRES.ORG/SUNDAY-SCHOOL/SUNDAY-SCHOOL-CLASSES/](https://www.cov-pres.org/sunday-school/sunday-school-classes/)

TAUGHT BY:

GREG BECKER – DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE & COUNSELING LPC  
JOHN KUEBLER – RETIRED PASTOR, RETIRED CLINICAL DIRECTOR OF JOURNEY COUNSELING MINISTRIES – LPC, LMFT



## AVOIDING PAIN IS NATURAL

- Self-preservation (validating...not always sin)
- Pain brings death/awareness of things not being right –  
“This is my life”?
- What we deeply thirst for and long for cannot be fully met  
(disappointment)
- Jeremiah 2:13 – Broken Cisterns

## PAIN & SUFFERING IS GOD'S PLAN FOR UNDERSTANDING THE GLORY OF THE CROSS

- **Mark 4:35-41** – Jesus calms the storm
- What was their natural reaction when the storm came?
- What did you notice about Jesus's response to the disciples?
- How did the disciples respond when the storm ceased?
- What's the connection of storms & trials and our faith?

## GOD'S HOLINESS & GLORY ARE THE PRIORITIES

- Lev 20:7-8; 26, 1Peter 1:15-16 – God calls us to holiness and sanctifies us to that end.
- Rom. 5:3-4, Heb. 12:10-11, James 1:2-4, - God is more concerned with our **character** than our comfort.

## PAIN/EMPATHY – THE GATEWAY TO RELATIONSHIP

- **Other Centeredness - this starts with God**
  - Luke 10:27 – Greatest Commandment (Love God & Love your neighbor)
  - Romans 12:9-21 - Genuine Christian love defined
  - Galatians 5 – Fruits of the Spirit
  - Ephesians 4:31-32 – Being kind & gracious, and demonstrating love (empathy) towards our primary heart connections