

“There is something else meaningless that occurs on earth: the righteous who get what the wicked deserve, and the wicked who get what the righteous deserve.” Ecclesiastes 8:14a NIV

● **REMEMBER WE ARE NOT ALONE**

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18 NIV

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.” Isaiah 43:2 NIV

● **REMEMBER WE CAN RECEIVE COMFORT**

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”
2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV*

● **REMEMBER PAIN CAN SERVE A PURPOSE**

“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son.” Romans 8:28-29a NIV

“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 NIV

● **REMEMBER DARK DAYS DON'T LAST FOREVER**

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” Revelation 21:4 NIV

Jesus — “I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 NIV

Next Week: **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I DIE?**



WHY IS THERE SO MUCH PAIN AND SUFFERING?

Ron Thompson | March 10, 2019

God — “Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.” Jeremiah 33:3 NIV

*“God does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.”
Lamentations 3:33 NIV*

*“God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.”
Genesis 1:31a NIV*

*“To Adam God said, ‘Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.’”
Genesis 3:17 NIV*

“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.” Romans 5:12 NIV

REASONS FOR PAIN AND SUFFERING

OUR OWN CHOICES

THE CHOICES OF OTHERS

NATURAL CAUSES

SATANIC INFLUENCE

RESPONSE TO PAIN AND SUFFERING

● **REMEMBER WE LIVE IN A FALLEN WORLD**

Jesus — “In this world you will have trouble.” John 16:33b NIV



This Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. Join one of our message-based Community Groups to do this study together. Visit the Groups table after service to find a group!

LESSON AIM: The aim of this lesson is to explore why there is so much pain and suffering in our world today.

BELONG in God's family:

CHECK IN: (optional) Let's briefly share with each other how we've been doing this week.

OPENING PRAYER

ICEBREAKER: Share your best silver lining story (a difficult situation that had a positive outcome).

BECOME like Jesus:

1. Sunday's message focused on the question of pain and suffering. In what ways have you been impacted by this topic? What did you learn Sunday that will help you accept, manage, and even grow during difficult times?
2. Read Genesis 2:15-25. How would you describe this first setting God placed mankind in? Do you think there was pain and suffering there? Why do you think God placed the tree of knowledge of good and evil in this paradise and then told them not to eat from it?
3. Now read 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, Ephesians 2:1-3, 1 John 5:19. Considering these verses, along with Sunday's message, where does suffering come from?

4. See Hebrews 5:7-8 and 2 Corinthians 4:16-17. What was the attitude and outcome of the sufferings of Jesus? How can we have the same attitude as Christ during troubling times?
5. Few people suffered like Job did in the Bible. In Job 1:6-12, 2:1-9, what is the difference between Job's perspective of his situation and God's perspective? Have you faced a situation where you felt like Job and the world around you was falling apart? How did that affect your relationship with God?

BLESS others:

See James 1:2-5. How is it possible to face pain and suffering with this type of attitude? In what way do you see this pain and suffering in our group right now? How can we as a group support and encourage one another when we face our times of difficulty?

BUILD God's Kingdom:

How might what you learned about pain and suffering benefit a friend who is experiencing it? In our shattered divisive world, how can simple love and listening help the hurting around us?

BELIEVE God and act in faith:

What do you sense God is inviting you to do in response to this study? Do you still have questions on "why there is so much pain and suffering"? What perspective can we hold on to when questions like this are not fully answered for us?

PRAYER: What is a challenge you are facing this week? How can we pray and support you?

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