

Focal Points for the New Chapter Message Follow-Up Questions

- (1) Have you ever made an assumption that got you into trouble? Please read Proverbs 13:10. What is better than assuming? How can we cultivate a greater openness to receiving advice?

- (2) Please read Colossians 1:24-29. Would you connect rejoicing and suffering together? Should we expect to suffer? What does Philippians 1:29 suggest? If we get angry with God when we suffer, what does that suggest? Back to Colossians 1, what do we receive in Christ? How might that gift change suffering for us? Why might God allow or give us the gift of suffering (2 Corinthians 4:17)?

- (3) What is your reaction to the idea that God gives us the gift of suffering (Philippians 1:29)? How does Romans 8:26-27 alter how you think about struggling or being weak? What does Psalm 34:18 add to how we should feel and think about experiencing suffering?

- (4) Please read Romans 11:33-36. What do these verses tell us about God and about life? How does Paul think we should respond to those statements about God (Romans 12:1-1)? How would you connect the point of Romans 12:1-2 with Romans 8:29-30?

- (5) How can we help each other love God?

- (6) How can we help each other trust the Bible?

- (7) How can we help each other believe that God answers prayer?

- (8) How can we help each other encourage others to follow Jesus?