



# PURPOSEFUL PAIN

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God's **purpose** in your **pain** is to develop **perseverance** so that you'll be **prepared**.

1. Your perspective of your **pain** determines its purpose in your life

*James 1:2*

*James 1:1*

God introduces **trials** for your growth; your fleshly lusts bait you with **temptation** for your destruction.

Your perspective is your **responsibility**.

2. Your faith will not be **productive** until it's tested

*James 1:3*

Biblically, faith is defined as trusting God with what you can't see.

*"Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pain. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."*

C.S. Lewis

The only way that you get to find God faithful is when you need to put your faith in Him for something. That's how it works.

3. God is preparing you through your persevering

*James 1:4*

To let perseverance finish its work means that you have a choice to make.

*Romans 5:3-4*

*"We are not necessarily doubting that God will do the best for us; we are wondering how painful the best will turn out to be."*

C.S. Lewis



# HOME GROUP NOTES

Welcome to Home Groups

If this is your first time in a Home Group, please feel at ease. You can join in as little or as much as you feel comfortable. Our purpose is to build relationships, learn how we can support each other, and dig into truth that shapes our lives. (Tip: If you didn't hear the message on Sunday, you can hear it online at [www.trinityonline.org](http://www.trinityonline.org)).



## Share It

Trials come in many shapes. What are some of the nagging trials that we all face? What are some trials that catch us 'off guard'?



## Study the Word Together

Todd's message this week spoke of perspective in trials and how it is shaped by knowing that God is doing something valuable through them. What might we learn about God's character and purposes from the following Scriptures?\*

Exodus 34:6

Jeremiahs 29:11

Romans 5:1-5

\* If you don't have a Bible, you can look these up online at [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com)



## **Discuss Together**

What are the differences between trials and disappointments? How do our expectations fit in? What would you consider a trial?

If God is truly sovereign (ruling) and allowing painful trials in life, how can knowing His character shape our perspective in these trials?

What are some thoughts about this statement: "Your faith will not be productive until it's tested?"

From we heard and read, what are the keys to seeing purpose in our pain?

How can we help strengthen one another's faith and perspective in times of trials?



## **Pray**

Pray for one another (share requests).

Pray about the men's outreach this Saturday. Is there someone to invite?



## **Apply It This Week**

Make a call of 'listening encouragement' to a friend in a trial.