

QUESTIONS

OPENING QUESTIONS – Use these questions to connect with others in your group:

1. What is something random you didn't know until embarrassingly late in your life?
2. What was the biggest punishment you got as a kid or in school? What did you do?

KEY POINTS – take a minute to review the key points from this weekend's message

1. If John was the greatest and suffered, then maybe suffering isn't dependent on if we're good or not
2. At some point in our life, we all suffer and experience hardships
3. Some pain can be explained by consequences of our own doing
 - a. Our sin has brought on suffering and breaks our relationship with God
4. Sometimes, God might use suffering to awaken us
 - a. God does not cause it, but can use it to call us back to him
5. God uses suffering to mature us
 - a. Growth happens under pressure
6. Sometimes we don't know the reason
7. Our hope is found in Christ, not our circumstances
 - a. "The answer to suffering isn't information, it's the incarnation" - Lee Strobel

SCRIPTURES USED IN THIS MESSAGE: John 3:30, Luke 7:4-28, Luke 3:20, Matthew 5:45, Romans 5:3-4

RESPOND

Was there anything that stuck out to you about the message? Was there something that was hard, confusing, or something you really resonated with?

At some point in our lives, most people wonder why there is evil and pain in the world. Has this been a question you have wrestled with? (Will help if the leader shares first)

What were the results of that painful situation? Did any of the ideas and reasons Brandon went over resonate?

Brandon talks about how ultimately our hope in life is found in Jesus, not our circumstances. Why is this?

What does this change about the way we live?

APPLY

People in pain often want someone to listen to them rather than to try and give answers. If that is true, what are some practical ways that you can come alongside someone you know that is suffering?

PRAY