



The Value of Suffering

1 Peter 4:1-6

Week of May 5, 2019

Objective of this study: To understand better the value of suffering, and how our behaviour flows out of our relationship with God.

[Remember, the main goal of each Growth Group is to allow God's Word to change your heart so that others would see Jesus in you and be likewise changed to be like him. He wants to change the world through us.]

Welcome (5 minutes)

What are some times in your life when you have had to 'patiently endure'?

Worship (5 – 10 minutes)

1. Sing a song or two of praise and thanksgiving to God.
2. Spend five minutes in silence asking God to prepare your heart for hearing his word. After the silence, have someone read **Romans 8:35-39** meditatively to the group. Pause after each phrase letting God speak to you. **Did anything "jump out at you"?**

[It's really important when doing this study that we each think about ourselves specifically and ways we need to grow, not how Christians in general need to grow. Do the hard work of letting the Holy Spirit speak to *your* heart.]

Word/Work (60-90 minutes)

1. What stood out from the sermon?
2. How do you feel about the idea of suffering for Jesus, or for the gospel?
3. Read 1 Peter 4:1-6; James 2:1-4; Romans 5:1-5. Notice the progression, the 'journey' that walking with God through suffering takes us on. How have you experienced this? What areas would you like to grow in? What is the value of suffering?
4. Read Romans 8, the whole chapter.
 1. Find all that you can that describes our relationship with God.
 2. Look for everything you can find that describes the relational foundation for living in a way that glorifies God.
 3. Find all you can that relates to hope, and reasons for persevering through suffering.
 4. What in this chapter encourages you?
5. Read the article about the Sri Lankan Christians' response to the Easter Sunday attacks. What stands out to you? What do you see in it about responding well to suffering? What do you see that you would want to emulate? Which of these things can you/we as a church put into practice already, in our relationships here in Campbell River?
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/channel/utilities/print.html?type=article&id=161053>

Prayer - Pray for the Christians in Sri Lanka, to respond well, to be comforted, to reflect Jesus.

1. Spend the rest of the time praying for each other. **Praise God together for how he works, and how he allows us to partner with him to accomplish things in his kingdom.**
2. Here are some things you can pray about for the church:

A. That, as a church, we would actively and purposefully engage in the mission of Jesus in Campbell River.

B. Our church board and staff as they lead us to live out the mission of Jesus.

C. River Kids ministry as they reach out to kids in our community.

D. **Our missionary of the week:** Rod and Donna Black. (Check out the church [website](#) for how to pray for them.)

E. **Local CR church:** Ocean Crest Salvation Army.

Radiant Life March Drive - Men's and women's new socks and underwear, and new or gently used shoes.