

Persevering in the Midst of Suffering

Romans 5:1-5

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You're Gonna Make It

Reflect

Outline: Recap

Realize

Points to Ponder

Respond

Questions to draw out understanding.

REFLECT

One of the hardest times in a person's life is when there is a season of suffering. No matter the cause of that suffering, it always feels like everything is falling apart. Our Bible's are full of stories of people who endure brutal seasons of suffering. Yet they become our heroes in the faith as we watch them persevere. And we say, "God, teach me to suffer and persevere like them." That is exactly what we are going to explore in this weekend's message.

REALIZE

1. Let Jesus transform your suffering

- **Scripture Reference:** 1 Peter 4:12-13
- **Leader Notes**
 - Suffering is rooted in sin, and Jesus came to deal with the universal problem of sin.
 - Because of the work of Jesus, God can transform our sufferings.
 - Our physical sufferings can unite us to the suffering of Christ.
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - How do I presently view suffering?

2. Suffering produces precious fruit

- **Scripture Reference:** James 1:2-4
- **Leader Notes**
 - In Christ, suffering is not purposeless, it is purposeful.
 - Suffering produces perseverance, perseverance produces character, and character produces hope.
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - How is Jesus trying to bear fruit in my life?

3. Your hope reveals the love of God

- **Scripture Reference:** 1 John 4:8-11
- **Leader Notes**
 - Hope matters, and it reveals the presence of God's love in your heart.
- **Questions for reflection**
 - How does hope give a window into God's love?

Optional Follow-up Questions:

- What makes you say that?
- How do you feel about that?
- How would you explain your answer to a non-Christian friend or neighbor?
- Why did God design it to work that way? Why not just do (whatever else) instead?
- What would you say to someone who disagrees with that?
- Why do we really have to do it like that? Why can't we just go (some other route) instead?