

Change Points!

Week Four – Suffering

Memory Verse: Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. (Jesus – Mt. 16:24, The Message Translation)

Video introduction by Pastor Steve

Recap of week three "Change Points!" message:

Some "suffering" is self-caused; it's a consequence. (1 Peter 3:13-15)

Suffering: This isn't fair, I don't like it, I'm in pain and distress!

Suffering forces a choice: Will we try to be God or will we choose to worship God?

Job's journey through suffering

- 1st test – I trust God. (Job 1:6-22)
- 2nd test – I trust God but I don't understand this! (Job 2:1-10)
- Job's friends (Job 2:11-13)
- Job argues with his friends (Job 3-37)
- God confronts Job (Job 38-41)
- Job chooses to worship God (Job 42:1-17)

God utilizes suffering to move us to worship. (Heb. 2:10)

Next Step:

- Don't settle for a standoff with God, choose to worship.
- Listen to those who suffer.
- Join a Care Group (Church website under "Groups" tab on front page)
- Resources: Where is God When It Hurts (Yancey),
The Problem of Pain (C.S. Lewis), The Red Sea Rules (Morgan)

Questions to explore:

1. What's the hardest thing for you when you are in a time of suffering?
2. How are you doing on shifting from asking the "Why" questions to asking the "How" questions?
3. How does choosing to worship God during suffering change how we experience suffering?
4. Share a story of how suffering has moved you to deeper worship of Jesus Christ.

Challenge question:

- At your table share with each other a current suffering you are going through and then pray for that person. (You are free to say "pass".)