

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.

1. What painful and unplanned "left turns" are you having to navigate in your life?

Based on the passages of Scripture we looked at in this week's sermon, how would you say your perspective about your suffering has been skewed?

2. Read Colossians 1:16 and 2 Corinthians 5:15. How does a truly God-centered perspective change your attitude toward your personal struggles and pain?

In what ways could your suffering result in something that brings honor to God?

3. How does having an "eternal perspective" help you face the present pains of this life?

4. In what practical ways can you remind yourself of the perspective we studied the next time things get tough in your life?

In what specific way can you help others hold on tightly to a biblical perspective in the midst of their pain?

We are reading through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.

Sunday

Neh. 8-9 & Ps. 72

Monday

Neh. 10-11 & Ps. 73

Tuesday

Neh. 12-13 & Ps. 74-75

Wednesday

Esth. 1-2 & Ps. 76-77

Thursday

Esth. 3-4 & Ps. 78

Friday

Esth. 5-6 & Ps. 79-80

Saturday

Esth. 7-8 & Ps. 81-82

Here are some resources which may help you acquire and maintain a biblical perspective amid life's pains.

Bridges, Jerry. **Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts**. NavPress, 1988.

Carson, D. A. **How Long, O Lord? Reflections on Suffering & Evil**. Baker Books, 1990.

Elliot, Elisabeth. **A Path Through Suffering**. Vine Books, 1990.

Kreeft, Peter. **Making Sense Out of Suffering**. Servant Publications, 1986.

Lewis, C. S. **The Problem of Pain**. Broadman & Holman, 2000.

Plantinga, Alvin. **God, Freedom, and Evil**. Eerdmans, 1974.

Robinson, Haddon. **Grief: Comfort for Those Who Grieve and Those Who Want to Help**. Discovery House, 1996.

Tada, Joni Eareckson. **When God Weeps: Why Our Suffering Matters to the Almighty**. Zondervan, 1997.

Yancey, Philip. **Disappointment with God**. Zondervan, 1997.