



One 2021: wk Suffering as Opportunity for Attachment

Introduction: Suffering can cause feelings of isolation. When we suffer we often think we are alone or even possibly abandoned by God. But what if God was offering us an opportunity to attach deeper to him when we suffer?

Discussion Questions

1. Who enjoys being alone? If you do enjoy being alone, how long can you be alone before you start to not enjoy it? Can you describe a time where you felt “too alone?”
2. When we experience pain or suffering, why do we think sometimes that God has abandoned us? Why is suffering a problem for so many when it comes to faith?
3. **Read 1 Peter 3:8-12** When you receive insults or injustice, how often is “blessing your first instinct?” How strong is our need to “get even?”
4. The 4 promises found in this passage are that when we suffer, God sees; God hears; God blesses; and God will use us. How can each of those promises be a comfort? Are there any that are more difficult to understand or believe?
5. **Read 1 Peter 3:15-16** Has anyone ever asked you about the hope that you have? How are we to ask those that question where our hope is in difficult times?
6. **Read 1 Peter 3:21-22** Why is baptism sometimes a controversial or emotional topic? Peter talks about baptism being a pledge of a good conscience toward God. In the sermon, Jeremy likened it to a wedding vow. Where does that comparison work and where might it not work?
7. When you experience difficult things, how might God be inviting you to be even closer to Him through the difficulty?

Shaping Your Mind – *...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15b*

Moving Forward – Suffering is not abandonment, but an invitation for attachment.