

# Can I Ask That?

## Week 2

**Genesis 1:31a**

*God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.*

Suffering is part of [LIFE](#).

**Romans 8:17-25 (NIV)**

*<sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. <sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.*

*<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?*

*<sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.*

Sharing in the suffering of Christ binds us  
to the [CROSS](#).

### **1 Peter 2:21-24 (NLT)**

*<sup>21</sup> For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.*

*<sup>22</sup> He never sinned,  
nor ever deceived anyone.*

*<sup>23</sup> He did not retaliate when he was insulted,  
nor threaten revenge when he suffered.  
He left his case in the hands of God,  
who always judges fairly.*

*<sup>24</sup> He personally carried our sins  
in his body on the cross  
so that we can be dead to sin  
and live for what is right.  
By his wounds  
you are healed.*

**Can our faith bear up under the pain and still TRUST God?**

## **NOW WHAT?**

### **2 Corinthians 4:7 [NLT]**

*We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.*

### **2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV)**

*<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. <sup>18</sup> So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

**How does our suffering become  
MEANINGFUL?**

#### **Kintsugi:**

- ancient Japanese art
- means "golden joinery"
- the art of precious scars

*Celebrates that nothing is ever  
truly broken...*

# NOTES:

***“Discipleship is being bound to the suffering Christ. The cross is not random suffering; it is necessary suffering.”***

*– Dietrich Bonhoeffer*



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## For Further Reflection:

:: Reflect on some of your deep questions to God about suffering you have experienced in life.

:: Tim Keller has noted that, "We are the first culture to be surprised by suffering."

:: How can this false expectation ultimately derail us in life?

:: What can we do now to prepare our hearts for suffering later?

:: Read Romans 3:3-5

:: What does it mean to 'glory in our sufferings'?

:: How does hope sustain us?

:: Where does hope come from?

:: Read Romans 8:26-27 (Reread all of Romans 8 if you are in a season of suffering)

:: What difference does it make to have the Holy Spirit helping us?

:: How does this shape how we pray?

:: How might you change your perspective on suffering so that it can have meaning?

:: What pieces of pain are you holding onto?

:: Letting go of our pain is what frees us to find the meaning in our suffering.

What do you need to do to move into this space of restoration?

:: Share that with at least 1 person who can pray for you and support you in this journey.

**"Suffering invites us to place our hurts in larger hands." ~Henri Nouwen**

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## How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

**Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness.  
I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I recognize  
you as Savior; and I choose to respond to you as my Risen LORD.  
Help me to follow you all the days of my life.  
In Your name, Amen.**

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the  
New International Version [NIV].  
Beth Cossin (@bethcossin) – September 15 & 16, 2018

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