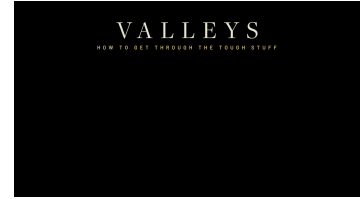


LG Questions

Spring 23 Wk 9



The 5 Good Purposes of Pain

Big Idea: God uses our valleys to make us better disciples.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-10

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced...We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself....But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God,...He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us (NIV)

- 1. Glorify God: Paul says in these verses that God allowed him to go through a valley so deep that he despaired life itself. He even mentions that God used that valley to teach him to rely on Jesus on not on his own strength. Share a time that God used a valley in your life to give you a deeper trust in Christ.***

Galatians 6:2

Carry each other's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ

- 2. Relate to One Another: Pain can pull our relationships together or tear them apart. From your experience, share a practice, habit, or attitude that brings relationships together in the midst of pain. Share an attitude, practice, or habit that is sure to pull relationships apart in a valley.***

Read 2 Corinthians 4:10

Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. (NLT)

3. ***Apply God's Word:*** Is it reasonable to accept that God doesn't spare us from the kinds of pain that Jesus went through (feeling lonely, being falsely accused, character attacked, physically attacked) Why would God want us to go through suffering? How do you feel about it?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:4-6

He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation! For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer. (NLT)

4. ***Cultivate a Ministry*** Our pain can inspire us to help others. Our mess can become our ministry. How has God used your brokenness to mend and heal someone else?

Read Philippians 1:12

And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here (beatings, shipwrecks, etc.) has helped to spread the Good News.

5. ***Expand God's Kingdom*** As Paul points out here, our "valleys" can be used to reach out to others and spread the Gospel. Why is sharing our weaknesses and pain be more effective for reaching others with the Gospels than communicating our accomplishments and joys.