

Conversation Starters

- Have you ever waited eagerly for something (even thinking back to when you were a kid)?
- Was it hard to wait?

Discuss

We all go through suffering at some point or another. With it comes anxiety, frustration, discouragement, and more. The Bible teaches this is part of life as a result of sin or disobedience to God starting back from the time of Adam and Eve. Following God does not exempt us from suffering and, in fact, we are to expect it.

And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. (Romans 8:17 NLT)

- Can you recall any of the sufferings Jesus went through?
- Do you expect there to be no troubles as a Christian?
- Are you going through any suffering now (or in recent memory)?

Even though suffering does exist and will happen to each of us, we need remember that the world as we know it is not part of the original design by God. God will ultimately wipe away evil and we will have a future life with God. This is the eternal perspective Christians hope for and what we are promised through God's grace and forgiveness of our sin. And it can only be found through Jesus.

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are... We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.) (Romans 8:18-19, 24-25 NLT)

- Do you ever think about a future with God, free of pain and suffering?
- Do you need to reframe your thinking to have an eternal perspective now?
- What can you control in your life right now?

When we go through suffering, we can trust that God is with us and he cares, even if it seems overbearing. We can bring all of our troubles and cares to him and he will listen and respond. We may not get the answer we want, but we can still choose to trust and hope for the future promise we have.

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. (Romans 8:26-27 NLT)

- Do you believe you can trust God?
- Does your faith waiver during hard times?
- Do you bring everything to God in prayer?

Next Steps

It can be difficult to find contentment in life while waiting for a future promise of restoration. While waiting is not easy, it is still possible and only we can choose for ourselves how we respond while we wait. We can put our faith in God and then bring all of our worries to him. It also helps being surrounded by people who are also eagerly waiting for a future with him. Are you setting yourself up for finding contentment while you wait and endure suffering? Check out some of these resources to help:

- New to Meck? Join us at [Starting Line](#) to learn more about us and begin getting involved.
- Need prayer or to speak with a pastor? Let our [Community Care](#) team know.

Further Reflection

Read Romans 8:16-28; 2 Corinthians 4:18; Hebrews 6:13-19; Psalms 69:1-3; 55:1-2,5-8a; 13:1-2,5-6 NLT.

Pray

God, you are so gracious, loving, and compassionate. You really are *good*. Hard times and suffering is not easy for us and we do not always respond well during it. Thank you for your grace and for caring so much about us and everything that we go through. Help us to focus on you, and to remember that we can bring anything to you and that you eagerly wait for us to do so, so that we can find contentment while we wait on your future promises.