

SERMON SERIES: Construction Zone

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Sermon Title:

“Why Does God Allow Pain and Suffering?”

Introduction

This is our second week in our new series, “Construction Zone.” We are taking a closer look at the questions asked that often lead to a season of deconstruction in our faith. Today, we are looking at the question, “Why does God allow pain and suffering?” When we take a closer look at our understanding of God in the midst of suffering, we can build our faith on the truth that God provides purpose behind our pain.

- Share a time when you experienced pain or suffering that caused you to question the goodness of God. How did you navigate through that experience?

Seek the Word

- Read Genesis 3. How does this contrast with a “very good” creation only a chapter before? How do you reconcile the goodness of God with the existence of suffering?
- Read Romans 8:28. It assures us that God works for the good of those who love Him. How does this promise provide hope in the midst of pain and hardship? How have you seen God work for good in your own life?

Go Deeper

Read Job 1:1-22. Reflecting on Job's response to extreme suffering, what insights can we gain about maintaining faith and trust in God during times of deep hardship? How does Job's example challenge our own reactions to adversity and loss?

Talk About It

- How can we cultivate honesty in our relationship with God, especially in expressing our doubts and questions about His goodness in the face of suffering?
- Reflecting on the analogy of pain with purpose, discuss a time when you experienced pain or difficulty that later revealed a greater purpose or growth. How did that experience shape your perspective on suffering?
- In what ways can we practically support and carry each other's burdens within our small group or community of faith? How can we create a safe space for vulnerability and sharing?

Wrap Up

Reminder: God's proof of His love is the Cross.

Challenge: Start a gratitude journal and commit to writing down three things you're thankful for each day, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant they may seem. When faced with adversity or disappointment, intentionally shift your perspective by focusing on what you can be grateful for in that situation.