

BELPRES  CHURCH

Sermon Title: Suffering and Glory

Scripture:

Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Discussion Questions:

Read this week's scripture(s) & answer the below questions with your friends, family, or All In small group.

1. **Icebreaker Question:** What is a meaningful tradition in your life that you hope to pass on to others?
2. **Opening Question:** Looking back...Last week we talked about the meaning of the cross. How did you live differently or practice what we talked about in your life this week? What did you do and how did it go?
3. **Scripture Reflection Questions:** Read this week's scripture together and discuss the following:
 - a. What do we learn about God (e.g., traits, personality, what matters, priorities) in this passage?
 - b. What do we learn about people, and ourselves in particular, this week?
4. **Sermon Reflection Questions:** Reflecting on this week's sermon, discuss the following:
 - a. Do you feel that God has helped you in times of suffering? If so, how?
 - b. How can you bring God's hope to suffering people this week?
5. **Closing Question and Application:** Given what we've discussed together today, how might God want you apply these learnings to your life or in the life of your community this next week? Who might you share this with?
6. **Closing group prayer:** Spend a few minutes together in your group sharing prayer requests and then praying together for each other. Thank God for the time together, the conversation shared, the other people in the group, and for encouragement in the week ahead.