

ONE

SIXTEEN

Community Group Discussion Guide

March 30, 2014

Romans
Week 6 - Suffering
Romans 5:1-11

Before answering the following questions read Romans 5:1-11

Introduction

The book of Romans is brilliant apologetic for the Christian faith. Know this book well and it will equip you to share your faith in Christ. The title for this series is taken from Paul's personal declaration of confidence in the gospel.

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.

Romans 1:16

Questions for Study

1. Have you gone through a time of deep suffering in your own life? Did you find that was a challenging time for you to trust God? What was most helpful for you in making it through this time?
2. Do you know someone who walked away from their faith in Christ because of a tragedy in their life? What do you think is most helpful to say to someone like this?
3. In your conversations with others about your faith, have you had someone say that they did not believe in God or didn't want anything to do with God because of all the suffering in our world? If you have, how did you respond?
4. What does Genesis 2 and 3 show us about the cause of suffering?
5. God created Adam and Eve with the freedom to choose whether or not to obey him. This opened the door to the potential of sin and it's results. What would have been the only alternative for how God created mankind for this not to happen? If you wouldn't want this alternative for yourself, why?
6. Knowing what you know about the suffering in our world...the potential for suffering in your own life, if you had a choice of whether or not to have been born, what would you choose?
7. Why is it meaningful that Jesus Christ suffered with us? (Hebrews 2:14-18)

In Sunday's sermon Steve gives three reasons (taken from Romans 5:1-11) God is worthy of our trust in the hardest of times. The second reason is taken from verses 3 and 4. Consider a specific difficulty you have experienced and answer the following three questions:

8. Did it help you sift out the unimportant from the important? If yes, how?
9. Did it bring a kind of maturity and confidence that comes from having been through it and finding God faithful? If yes, how?
10. Did it lead you to a deeper experience of God's presence and love? If yes, how?