

## Sermon Questions

### “Don’t Waste Your Suffering”

#### 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

1. What stood out to you in this week’s message?
2. Pastor Aaron shared with us a time when he was battling panic attacks and serious depression. He also shared that he was afraid to tell anyone because as a pastor, felt that people came to him for help, not the other way around. How can our perceptions of other people and their reactions to our difficult situations keep us from being open? Please read James 5:13-16 to see how we should interact with our struggles and those around us.
3. Please read 1 Peter 4:12-13. Peter warns us that we will experience suffering, or as he states, “the fiery ordeal.” As we’ve touched on suffering throughout our series this year, discuss some of the ways that we can approach our own suffering as well as the suffering of our close friends and loved ones. How can we get God involved?
4. Please read our text that Pastor Aaron preached from, 2 Corinthians 1:3-11. The first thing for us to remember is that we don’t have to go it alone! How have you experienced Christ’s love and comfort through the church? Discuss how comfortable you feel with sharing your struggles to others.
5. The second thing Peter tells us is that we can use our suffering to comfort others. Read again 2 Corinthians 1:4. What does this passage tell us about where we can gain our comfort from and how that can empower us to comfort others?
6. Our suffering and struggle can provide us with patient endurance. Please read the following verses and discuss how we as Christians can endure our times of suffering: Romans 5:3-4; James 1:12-18; Hebrews 10:36; James 1:2-4; 1 Corinthians 10:13.
7. Pastor Aaron’s final point was that we need to let go of control and trust in God alone. Please spend time praying as a group. Pray that God will be a constant comfort in your times of suffering. Pray that God will be your ever-present help in time of need. Pray that God will be your rock and refuge in the storms of life. Pray that God will give you the faith and trust to give Him control. Praise Him for His goodness and faithfulness to you. Thank Him for His promise of a hope and future (Jeremiah 29:11-13.)