



# DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING

finding clarity in the chaos

STUDY GUIDE

**THE POINT:** The Remedy for Suffering is Sovereignty.

This week we begin a new series where we explore the opportunities of COVID-19. Yes, you heard right, the opportunities. COVID-19 came and changed our lives, but it has also pushed us to ask a particular question—what really matters to us? Before the pandemic, we were busy doing those things that were seemingly important to us, but are not nearly as important any longer.

This week we are looking at how an event like the pandemic shows us God's sovereignty in the midst of suffering. Paul understood suffering. His list of personal suffering is too long to repeat here, but he also understood God's sovereignty in it all. He reminds us in Romans that God prays for us in suffering even when we can't, and He grows us through our chaos to look more like Jesus. God uses every circumstance to make you look more like Jesus. Only a sovereign God can take all the chaos, suffering, pain and trouble that the world throws at you and turn it into brushes to paint an ever-clearer picture of Jesus in you!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read and discuss **Romans 8:18-32**. Paul paints a clear picture of God's sovereignty in suffering. Have you experienced a time when your suffering or the chaos in your life was so great that you couldn't pray? Did you experience the Holy Spirit interceding for you? Did this experience help you discover and deepen your relationship with Jesus?
2. What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention?
3. Reality check: As big as the COVID-19 pandemic is, we have a much bigger God. If you are a follower of Jesus—the One who holds on to you and is in control is the sovereign God. How does your perspective about the pandemic change when you focus on God's sovereignty?
4. How have you seen God grow you during the pandemic?
5. How do you see God using the pandemic as a paint brush to paint a clearer picture of Jesus in you?
6. We use the phrases "rest in God" or "rest in Jesus" during suffering and life's difficulties. This rest is not pain free, but it does mean that we don't have to fight the chaos alone because God is not surprised by it. He can even use a pandemic for your good and His glory. How have you found ways to rest in Him during this time?

## ACTION STEPS

- God did not expect you to experience life, or a pandemic, alone. Over the coming weeks, we will be gathering together in these ways:
  - **HOUSE CHURCH**- approximately ten people who gather in a home to watch and discuss the worship service, socialize, invite new people, and make plans to serve in our community.
  - **HUDDLE**- four people of the same gender who commit to meeting together weekly for a year to discover and deepen their relationship with Jesus and each other.
- What's one thing you will do this week as a result of something you learned from this message?
- Read the **Didn't See That Coming Daily Devotional** on our website.