



## Pain has a Purpose I Can't Handle This (SEP 30)

**Series Summary:** We've all heard the saying "God will only give you what you can handle." This isn't always true, however. Sometimes we experience moments that we can't handle, and in those times, we are reminded that we must continually rely on God. This four-week series for adults or students helps people reckon with pain and suffering and trust God in the process.

**Big Idea/Question:** We will all have trouble and pain. But with Jesus, our pain has a purpose!

### GET THEM TALKING

Is it possible for us to grow in our faith when we feel like we have more than we can handle?

Have you ever had a time in your life that was difficult and you grew in your faith because of it?

### VIDEO TEACHING

**Matthew 5:1-11** Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them. He said:

- 3 **Blessed are the poor in spirit,**  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 **Blessed are those who mourn,**  
for they will be comforted.
- 5 **Blessed are the meek,**  
for they will inherit the earth.

- 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.
- 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

**Blessed characteristics:** meek, pure in heart, peacemakers..... It is easy enough to see how these people could be called blessed. They are acting like Christ. Those who act like Christ are blessed bot now and into eternity.

**Blessed situation:** poor, mourn, persecuted, insulted..... How could these people ever be considered blessed? These people are driven to the foot of Jesus. They know him more. We then become more like him. As we become more like him we are more able to make an eternal impact.

**Big Idea:** To be blessed is to be more like Jesus.... By any means (by persecution, community, mission, tragedy). If It drives you to be more Jesus then it is always a blessing.

**James 1:2-4** Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

**Question:** How is this different than how the world views a blessed life? The church can often get teachings on blessings wrong- at times churches can teach blessings to the extent that they shape this view that if you do good and do right then God will bless you in what you do. Did God bless people in the Bible with those things? Sure, but make no mistake there are numerous people in the Bible that obeyed God's will yet faced terrible hardship. Are such people blessed by God?.... Yes. Because they knew God, often more so because of the difficult time.

**Transition to the discussion-** that's not the only way difficulty can be a blessing.

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

What does this passage mean?

What does it look like to do this? How do we comfort others with the comfort we ourselves receive from God?

What is a way that God has comforted you that helps you comfort others who are going through the same thing?

**Leader Note:** As always make sure small group is a safe place as students may be sharing personal parts of their life in answering this question.

**Galatians 6:2** Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

**Leader Note:** the law of Christ referenced in Galatians 6:2 is referring to the Biblical command to Love God & Love People (Mark 12:32-33).

What is Galatians 6:2 calling you to do? How should it impact how you relate to other people?