



True Grit 3 – The Hardest Part Discussion & Reflection Guide

Message & Scripture Discussion

- **What is one of the hardest things you've ever done? What did you experience on the other side (if you're on the other side)?**
- **What stood out to you from Sunday's service?** How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the story video, the message, and being together with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- Chip mentioned that suffering is universal and guaranteed in life. He pointed out two different types of suffering:
 - Suffering we bring on ourselves through our choices.
 - Suffering that finds us and is the result of others' choices or outside elements.Regardless of the type, suffering prompts various kinds of WHY questions.
 - **What are some of the questions you've found yourself asking when you've experienced suffering?**
 - **Have you been able to ask them of God or have you had a hard time expressing them?**
- In Romans 5:3-4 and James 1:2-4, we see examples of God using suffering to help us become mature. **How do you react to this idea?**
- **Read Hebrews 12:1-13.** (This is a longer section of the passage Chip used in his teaching.)
 - **Read it several times, slowly. What do you notice from this Scripture? Is there a verse or phrase that you need to hold onto?**
 - Chip made a distinction between "punishment" and "discipline." **How does this Scripture passage help you see God's perspective on our suffering? Can you see suffering as evidence of your identity as God's child?**
- Chip talked about some different stages in the spiritual journey and mentioned a specific point called, "The Wall." It's a point where you are not only facing suffering or crisis in a deeper way, but you also find that what has helped before is no longer working. Chip shared, "God is inviting you to go with Him THROUGH the wall." **Have you ever experienced this? What did you experience and what questions did you ask God?**
- Near the end of the message, Chip encouraged us to move from asking WHY questions to asking a WHAT question: "God, what are you up to right now?"
 - **Can you identify a specific area of your life (a frustration, a place where you are weary, a relationship, a disappointment) and take some time to ask that question: "God, what are you up to right now?"**
 - **Spend time in silence, inviting God's Spirit to strengthen you and guide you.**

- **Is there anything else from the message you want to explore more deeply this week?**

Message Main Points & Scripture

- **Suffering prompts various kinds of why questions.**
- Romans 5:3-4 – “...we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character hope.”
- James 1:2-4 – “Consider it pure joy my brothers whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance, and perseverance must finish its work so that you might be mature and complete, not lacking in anything.”
- **It’s hard to be gritty without a why.**
- **“He who has a why to live for can bear almost any how.”**
- Hebrews 12:7-11 – “Endure hardship as discipline...”
- Hebrews 12:7-8 – “Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.”
- Hebrews 12:9-11 – “⁹Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live!¹⁰They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.
- Habakkuk 3:17-18 – “Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.”
- “Be not deceived, Wormwood, our cause [our demonic cause] is never more in jeopardy than when a human, no longer desiring but still intending to do our Enemy’s will [that’s God’s will], looks round upon a universe in which every trace of Him [God] seems to have vanished, and asks why he has been forsaken, and still obeys.” - CS Lewis, The Screwtape Letters
- **“God what are you up to right now?”**

We hope you’ll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday’s service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Write It Down – Do you want to grow in your ability to experience God at work in your life? The habit of writing down notes through journaling is a great way to slow down and keep track of what you’re learning and observing. We created a simple journal with examples of ways to take notes (Sunday worship notes, daily reflection, prayer requests, and more). Learn more about this and other resources at wschurch.org/resources.

