



PART 3: Even When It Hurts

INTRODUCTION

When life isn't going as we expected, we may feel discouraged, defeated, or even devastated. During those seasons, we spend a lot of energy trying to get rid of or avoid whatever is causing our pain. We love comfort and happiness, so we pray for God to intervene on our behalf. We ask him to remove the things that make our lives less than perfect. But what if God is up to something in the midst of our suffering—something more profound than comfort and happiness?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some things you find frustrating? How do you tend to respond to frustration?
2. Have you ever seen someone demonstrate great patience in the midst of a difficult circumstance? If so, what stood out about what you witnessed?
3. Talk about a time when you prayed for God to remove difficulty or pain from your life, and he didn't do so right away (or at all). What happened? How did the experience change your faith?
4. Read John 15:1-2. Do you find those verses comforting or difficult? In what ways do they challenge your views about God's role in your life?
5. Talk about a time in your life when suffering led to personal growth. Looking back, was that difficult season worth it?
6. What is discouraging, defeating, or devastating you right now? What is one thing you can do this week to begin to trust God with the outcome of whatever you're facing? What can this group do to support you?

MOVING FORWARD

When your circumstances leave you feeling discouraged, defeated, or devastated, you want God to remove the source of your pain. But what if that's not in your best interest? Maybe the greatest thing he can do for you is not remove your pain but use it. Maybe there is a level of your life you can only reach if you allow him to use it.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."

John 15:1-2