

TITLE: HOW TO GET THROUGH WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH

SESSION SEVEN: SERVICE – NEVER WASTE YOUR PAIN

KEY VERSE:

**“Have you gone through all of this for nothing? Is it all really for nothing?
Galatians 3:4 (CEV)**

CHECKING IN: Last week, Kay taught about finding treasurers in the darkness and referenced Isaiah 45:3; “I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name” (NIV). What treasures had God revealed to you during this study? How has this changed your perception of suffering?

5 PURPOSES FOR YOUR LIFE

- _____ - **Know and Love God**
- _____ - **Learn to Love Others**
- _____ - **Become Like Christ**
- _____ - **Serve God by Serving Other People**
- _____ - **Share Your Life Message**

Have you gone through all of this for nothing? Is it all really for nothing?
Galatians 3:4 (CEV)

5 WAYS PAIN CAN BE USED FOR GOOD

1. I can use my pain _____.

We were really crushed and overwhelmed ... and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us ... and he did help us.

2 Corinthians 1:8-10 (TLB)

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I am glad ... not because it hurt you but because the pain turned you to God.

2 Corinthians 7:9 (TLB)

2. I can use my pain _____.

By helping each other with your troubles, you truly obey the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2 (NCV)

3. I can use my pain _____.

Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.

Proverbs 20:30 (GNT)

Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.

Hebrews 5:8 (NLT)

Suffering make Jesus perfect, and now he can save forever all who obey him.

Hebrews 5:9 (CEV)

Isn't it wonderful all the ways in which this distress has goaded you closer to God? You're more alive, more concerned, more sensitive, more reverent, more human, more passionate, more responsible. Looked at from any angle, you've come out of this with purity of heart.

2 Corinthians 7:11 (The Message)

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10 (NLT)

4. I can use my pain _____.

He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation! For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer.

2 Corinthians 1:4-6 (NLT)

5. I can use my pain _____.

Your deepest life message will come out of your deepest pain.

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DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

1.) How can people intentionally cultivate deeper relationships – whether in marriage, friendship, or fellowship group – that will allow them to become vulnerable by openly sharing their feelings and experiences? Share your ideas or real-life experiences with the group.

2.) Our pain can be used to reach out and comfort others. Why would sharing our weaknesses be more effective in connecting with others than sharing our accomplishments?

3.) Winning in life requires resilience: the ability to bounce back from our problems and pains by seeing God’s purpose in them. Describe an example from your life that God has used to cultivate your purpose.

4.) Pastor Rick talk about four levels of fellowship: sharing, studying, serving, and suffering. Openly talk about what level your group is in now and how you could make progress toward the next level of fellowship. Share ideas and encourage everyone to contribute to the conversation.

5.) God’s #1 purpose in your life is to make you like Jesus. In what ways you have become more like Jesus during this study? In you thought life? Your prayer life? How you relate to others? Share you discoveries with the group.
