

Teaching Outline

Series: Experiencing Greatness

Week 3

The Origin of Suffering/Hardship

Gen 3:1-7 (NLT) ¹ The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" ² "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. ³ "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'" ⁴ "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. ⁵ "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." ⁶ The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. ⁷ At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

Gen 3:16-17 (NLT) ¹⁶ Then he said to the woman, "I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you." ¹⁷ And to the man he said, "Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it.

Causes of Difficult Times/Suffering

1st The presence of _____ in this world.

2nd Our own _____ .

Prov 9:11-12 (NLT) ¹¹ Wisdom will multiply your days and add years to your life. ¹² If you become wise, you will be the one to benefit. If you scorn wisdom, you will be the one to suffer.

3rd The _____ of _____ .

4th As the result of _____ .

Benefits of Suffering/Hardships

1st To _____ us.

Prov 3:11-12 (NLT) ¹¹ My child, don't reject the LORD's discipline, and don't be upset when he corrects you. ¹² For the LORD corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights

Psalms 119:75 (NLT) ⁷⁵ I know, O LORD, that your regulations are fair; you disciplined me because I needed it.

Prov 15:5 (NLT) ⁵ Only a fool despises a parent's discipline; whoever learns from correction is wise.

2nd So we can _____ others.

2 Cor 1:3-4 (NLT) ³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. ⁴ 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.

3rd To draw us _____ to _____ .

Isaiah 38:16-17 (NLT) ¹⁶ Lord, your discipline is good, for it leads to life and health. You restore my health and allow me to live! ¹⁷ Yes, this anguish was good for me, for you have rescued me from death and forgiven all my sins.

4th So we can develop _____/endurance.

Romans 5:3 (NLT) ³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance.

Prayer:

"Lord, humility was hard enough, but suffering really is stretching us in ways that are hard even to put into words. We are beginning to see that greatness sounds really good, but is not something easily experienced. Holy Spirit we need You! We can't become great without You! Lord, please help us be all You believe we can be! Amen!"