

TALK IT OVER

The God that Bleeds: God With Us

Find your new group! vccindy.org/groups

Start Talking: Find a conversation starter for your group or use one of these.

What's one time you faced a really difficult season, and what helped you get through it?

Please read **Isaiah 53:1-6** aloud.

- How does Jesus' suffering challenge the way we see pain in the world?

Please read **Hebrews 4:14-15** aloud.

"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

- How does knowing that Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses change the way we approach God in prayer or in suffering?

1 Peter 2:21 GNT

"It was to this that God called you, for Christ himself suffered for you and left you an example, so that you would follow in His steps."

- In what ways can we practically follow Jesus' example when we face unfair or difficult situations?

Romans 5:3-5 NIV

"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit."

- What does it look like to rejoice in suffering, and how have you seen endurance or hope grow as a result of hard times?

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Start Praying: Be bold and pray with power.

Dear Father, God, our hearts trust in your presence even in our suffering and pain. Thank you that Jesus, our high priest, understands our weaknesses. Help us to see our struggles through the lens of hope that Paul speaks of - knowing that suffering shapes us and draws us closer to you. Give us courage to follow Jesus' example in hard times, and remind us that your love never fails. We pray all this in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Leader: Make time to pray for and with each other. Break into groups of three, take time for healing prayer or pray with individuals requesting prayer. This is important!

Start Doing:

Ask God to help you notice how He is shaping your endurance or character. Journal a simple phrase each day or ask how God is inviting you to follow Jesus' example.

John 10:10-11 TPT

"A thief has only one thing in mind - he wants to steal, slaughter, and destroy. But I have come to give you everything in abundance, more than you expect - life in its fullness until you overflow! I am the Good Shepherd who lays down my life as a sacrifice for the sheep."