

STUDENTS NEWSLETTER



Theology of the month: **Suffering**

Today in the American Christian world we often believe that the Christian life is one that is supposed to be an easy life, but Jesus our Lord and the apostle Peter both taught differently. Peter preached that Christians should not be surprised when fiery trials of suffering comes their way (1 Pet. 4:12). Peter also mentioned to his audience in Rome, that through their suffering, their faith that is more precious than gold, will be refined, that it will bring praise, honor, and glory to Jesus Christ (1st Peter 1:6-7).

Jesus told his disciples that they would suffer as well, specifically to the 12 apostles that they would be suffer as he has, but also to all those who follow him to remember, “if the world hates you, it has hated me (Jesus) first”. (John 15:18-20)

Jesus Himself not only preached about suffering, but lived it. Even before the cross, He was mocked with harsh words, threatened with stoning, rejected in His hometown, betrayed by close friends, and even despised by family.

Yet it was through His greatest suffering—His death on the cross—that God’s love was fully displayed. By His pain and sacrifice, believers are saved and redeemed from sin, with the hope of eternity with Him where suffering will be no more.

Christians everywhere still face suffering. Though our persecution may differ from others, even teenagers experience trials for Christ. The good news is that we can look to Jesus as our example, knowing the suffering of this life is temporary, while the joy and reward of the next is eternal.

OUR MISSION

The mission for our students is the same as it is for our church. We want our students to become disciples of Jesus who **behold** His gospel, who **belong** in gospel community, and who are **sent** on gospel mission.

Memory Verse **of the Month**

“Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

- 1st Peter 4:16

Application of the month:

FOUR WAYS TO APPROACH THE ISSUE OF SUFFERING WITH STUDENTS

1. Help show them what the Bible teaches.

Often what people teach on suffering and what the Bible teaches is completely different, point out the truths of what the Bible teaches on pain, evil, sin, and suffering.

2. Help them to turn to God's presence.

God's presence is found in the word, but is also found through prayer and the church! Have them draw near to God in times of suffering!

3. Help them to turn to God's promises.

God's word gives plenty of promises in the life to come, but also promises to Christians in life right now that they will grow in their faith because of suffering.

4. Help remind them that God has a purpose.

God does give meaning and purpose to times of evil even when have a hard time believing or seeing them. Examples to look to are Job, Joseph, and Habakkuk.

5. Help them to look to Jesus.

Jesus is the model for one who suffered unjustly. Not only have students imitate Jesus in suffering, but for them to remember what Jesus has done for them through suffering.



Recommend Resources

Music:

Come unto Jesus - Laura Story

Sweet Victory - Trip Lee

Sovereign - Chris Tomlin

Article -

<https://rootedministry.com/why-teenagers-need-a-theology-of-suffering/>

Book: *Gentle and Lowly* by Dane Ortland

Book: *Suffering* by Paul David Tripp

SERMON SERIES

THIS FALL AT RH STUDENTS, WE WILL BE DIVING BACK INTO OUR SERIES IN **1ST PETER**. MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CAN BE TOUGH—FRIEND DRAMA, ACADEMIC PRESSURE, IDENTITY STRUGGLES. 1ST PETER WAS WRITTEN TO CHRISTIANS FACING PERSECUTION AND HARDSHIP, AND IT ENCOURAGES THEM TO STAY STRONG AND HOPEFUL. THAT MESSAGE STILL HITS TODAY.

AS A CHURCH, IN THE FALL, WE WILL BE BACK GOING THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF MARK, WHICH IS BELIEVED TO BE BASED ON THE TESTIMONY OF THE APOSTLE PETER. IT'S BEEN FUN TO SEE HOW THIS CONNECTS WITH 1ST PETER, AND HOW THE TWO BOOKS COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER.

IMPORTANT DATES

RH STUDENTS - Sept. 14th
5:00-7:30PM

RH STUDENTS - Sept. 28th
5:00PM-7:30PM

RH STUDENTS - Oct. 12th
5:00-7:30PM

RH STUDENTS - Oct. 26th
5:00-7:30PM

RH STUDENTS - Nov. 9th
5:00-7:00PM

RH STUDENTS - Nov. 16th
5:00-7:30PM

RH STUDENTS - Nov. 30th
5:00-7:30PM