

# SERIOUSLY, GOD?

## Pain is a Problem

### Focal Point

Pain is a significant argument against the Gospel and Christianity. However, the scriptures do not run from this issue but address it head-on. In this message, we will look at St. Paul and what he teaches us about looking past the pain and focusing on Jesus.

### Video

As a group, watch the "Chapter 5: Seriously, Pain is a Problem" Companion Video. [Click Here.](#)

### Discussion Questions

1. Think about an encounter you've had with serious pain—emotional, physical, psychological, financial, or any other. How did you respond to that pain? Did God play a role in your response? If so, what was it?
2. In this chapter, the authors explore three ways that God brings good out of evil—specifically, out of pain. Share a story from your own life about how pain or hardship helped you correct your life's course in some way—what the authors call a disciplinary purpose of pain (see pages 99-100). What good thing(s) came of the pain? Did you recognize God working through this experience? If so, in what way?
3. A second way the authors show that God works with our pain is for the good of others (see pages 100-109). Share about a time when you believe God used your pain to bring about something good for someone else. What is your takeaway from that experience?
4. In the first paragraph of page 115, the authors write that the third way God uses pain for our good is to help us grow and mature to live in the place of perfect joy that is heaven (see pages 109-117). Tell about an experience of pain that helped you grow toward being a better person.
5. What is one favorite takeaway from this chapter for you? Why is it compelling, or how has it helped you grow spiritually?

### Application

Suffering and pain are real. And when we experience them, it is easy for us to narrow our focus and concentrate only on our pain. Rather than focusing on our pain, we would do better to focus on Jesus and run towards him.

