

Going Deeper

Many Psalms are prayers of those who are in trouble or going through suffering. They can be useful resources for us to turn to as we face struggles and suffering ourselves.

Psalm 102 is a good example of such a Psalm. In fact it is entitled, '*A prayer of an afflicted man. When he is faint and pours out his lament before the LORD.*'

Read Psalm 102

6. What does the Psalmist call on God to do to start with?

7. How does the Psalmist describe his situation (vs. 3-11)? Why isn't this grumbling?

8. What is the Psalmist confident that God will do (vs. 12-17)?

9. What good is the Psalmist confident will come out of his situation (vs. 18-22)?

10. The Psalmist says God cut short his days. What does he say about God and time? How does this give him hope?

Now do the applying it to our lives questions...



**Week Beginning
Sunday 24th March 2019**

Growth Team News

This week we continue in Romans 8 a great chapter about the Christians life. In this section Paul shows us how as Christians we can cope with suffering.

Join with others to explore today's sermon in more depth, build stronger Christian relationships and support one another in prayer. Why not join a Growth Team?

**Growing in Christ
to glorify God
and enjoy Him forever**



Suffering and Glory

Romans 8:18-30 (page 1135)

Space to take notes on the talk

How Christians can cope with suffering:

1. The _____ View: God's _____

2. The _____ View: Our _____

3. The _____ View: Our _____

4. The _____ View: God's _____

Starter question

❖ What has helped you in times of suffering?

Responding to the talk

1. What was the most helpful thing you learnt or were reminded about in this week's talk?
2. Read 8:18-21
 - a. What is creation waiting for? Why is this important for creation? (cf. Gen. 1:27-28; Rev. 22:3-5)
 - b. Why is creation subject to frustration? (cf. Gen. 3:17-19)
3. Read 8:22-25
 - a. What is the difference between the 'groaning' described here and 'grumbling'? (cf. Phil. 2:14; James 5:9)
 - b. How does the idea of the 'pains of childbirth' help us understand verse 18? How does Paul describe the glory we are to look forward to?
4. Read 8:26-27
 - a. Why do we need the Spirit to 'intercede' for us?
 - b. Why are the Spirit's prayers better than ours?
5. Read 8:28-30
 - a. Who does God work for the good of? Can you think of examples in your life where God has used suffering to bring about some good?
 - b. Why is it comforting when thinking about suffering to know about God's fundamental plan for all Christians?

You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.

Applying it to our lives

11. How does this passage help us answer the question: 'Why does God allow suffering?'
12. Think of a real example of suffering either in the past or present. Which of the teaching points from this passage would have been most helpful in that context?