

Campfire Stories | Week #02

Suffering: The Path to Intimacy | July 15th and 18th

“There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written.” John 21:24

WHAT’S THE ISSUE ANYWAY?

We all experience _____ suffering.

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Some of us experience _____ suffering.

Sacred suffering comes from living a _____ life (the path of a peacemaker).

WHAT WISDOM DOES SCRIPTURE OFFER US?

Peacemaking is _____ to your health. (Mark 13:9-13, John 15:18-27, Matthew 10:17-25)

The story of Stephen continues to _____ those experiencing sacred suffering. (Acts 6-8)

The prophetic voice was a continual indictment against _____ and _____

Stephen trusted _____ to receive him in death.

Stephen trusted that _____ was the path of transformation.

Stephen’s suffering was part of Saul’s _____. (Philippians 3:7-11)

DON’T MISS THIS!

Sacred suffering will _____ be a part of the peacemaker’s story.

WHAT ABOUT MY EVERYDAY, PEACEMAKING LIFE?

Remember that suffering for the vision of Jesus is different than suffering for the laws of _____.

_____ the ones throwing the stones.

Trust that God does not _____ suffering but can _____ it.

Don’t suffer _____ and don’t let _____ suffer alone.

HOW CAN THIS MAKE ME A BETTER HUMAN AND OUR WORLD A BETTER PLACE?

Our sacred suffering builds _____ with the Spirit of Jesus.

WHAT IS GOD INVITING YOU INTO TODAY?

1. Talk with a friend about the suffering I am experiencing.
2. Spend some time this week praying for comfort and wisdom regarding an area of suffering.
3. Forgive those who are throwing stones and have rejected me.

THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS OR PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Think of a season of suffering in your life. Was this suffering shared suffering, stupid suffering, or sacred suffering?
2. Why do you think the gospel writers thought it important to remember and share Jesus' words about suffering? How do you think those words brought hope to their readers?
3. What impact, if any, do you think the stoning of Stephen had on the apostle Paul? Do you think he ever talked about his part in that day?
4. How do we confuse experiencing suffering for Jesus's vision for the world vs. suffering for religion's vision for the world? Can you think of a recent example where Christianity or a Christian might have "suffered" for something that has nothing to do with the vision of Jesus?
5. Why do you think suffering can be such a powerful catalyst for intimacy with God? Has that ever been the case in your life?