

SUFFERING & THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

TRILEMMA

God is **loving** → God is **powerful** → There is **evil**

HARD TRUTHS OF SUFFERING

- (1) Suffering proceeds from **sin**
James 1:15
- (2) We were **made** to make much of **him**
Isaiah 43
- (3) His **ways** are not my **ways**
Isaiah 55:8-9
- (4) Different definition of **ultimates**
Philippians 1:21-23
- (5) I am not a qualified judge of **good** or **fair**
Job 38
- (6) Our suffering is **short lived**
James 4:14

WHAT GOOD COMES FROM SUFFERING?

- (1) **Turn** from sin
2 Corinthians 7:8-13
- (2) **Rely** on Jesus
2 Corinthians 1:8-9
- (3) **Sanctification**
1 Peter 1:6-7
- (4) **Point** to reward
1 Peter 4:12-19

WHAT IF I'M SUFFERING?

John 11:1-44

- God's plan was for only **good** things
- **Sin** brought **bad** things
- **Bad** things are not **good** things
- God makes **bad** things work for our **good**
- **Best** things are yet to come

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 23, 2017

This week's homework will focus on preparing us for Weekend of Service and beyond. We want to show our community God's love in very practical ways and pray that our projects, attitudes and words will have a great impact.

Next Week's Growth Group Homework – Because next week's weekend worship services have been cancelled so we can serve during the Weekend of Service, your Growth Group homework will be mailed and emailed to you. You can also access it online at northcoastchurch.com.

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. If you have participated in any of our previous Weekends of Service, what has been a highlight of your experience? If you haven't participated in a previous Weekend of Service, what has been a highlight of serving others?

2. When is serving others most challenging for you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Our desire at North Coast is to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community; to be a church that intentionally serves and loves people so that they will see who Jesus is through our actions and words, and then be drawn to him. As you read the following passages, list any specific guidelines or tips that could influence our effectiveness in the weekend's projects.

Colossians 3:12,17,23-24 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Ephesians 6:7 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,

What does it look like to work "with all your heart"?

2. Loving and serving our neighbor means showing compassion for those who are in need (Matthew 15:32, Mark 6:34). How would you rate yourself on a compassion scale of 1-10? (My rating = _____)

Matthew 15:32 *New International Version (NIV)*

³² Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way."

Mark 6:34 *New International Version (NIV)*

³⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

Now read the following verses about God's compassion and write down how each passage might help you improve or sustain your rating.

Psalm 103:8-10 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁸The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
⁹He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
¹⁰he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.

Jonah 3:1-10 *New International Version (NIV)*

Jonah Goes to Nineveh

¹Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ²"Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

³Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. ⁴Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." ⁵The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

⁶When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

"By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

¹⁰When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

Jonah was not able to understand God's compassion or let it shape his life. Check out Jonah 4:1-11. What things in your life could keep you from being a more compassionate person?

Jonah 4 *New International Version (NIV)*

Jonah's Anger at the LORD's Compassion

¹But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

⁴But the LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

⁵Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"

"It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."

¹⁰ But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"

Agree/Disagree - Compassion is more of an action than a feeling.

3. We will all bring our own unique expectations into this weekend's projects. Regardless of how our experience matches up with those expectations, it will be our attitudes and actions that will make the difference. How could 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 impact the way we minister to others and serve during Weekend of Service?

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 *New International Version (NIV)*

Paul's Use of His Freedom

¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

What might it look like in your life to be a "slave to everyone, to win as many as possible"?

What risks, if any, do you see in Paul's strategy?



POWER OF PRAYER

This weekend we have the incredible opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. Take some time at the end of your group meeting to pray for the Weekend of Service:

- ⇒ That everyone serving will catch the joy of serving and be flexible with servants' hearts.
- ⇒ That we can fill the final spots needed to complete all of the projects.
- ⇒ For the many details and gathering of resources that need to happen this week.
- ⇒ For a job well done, timely completion of the projects along with physical safety of each individual and good judgment in the use of the many tools used.
- ⇒ That those we're serving will see the love of Jesus in us in words, actions and attitude.
- ⇒ That we can be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community, making an impact for Jesus.



FINAL NOTES & REMINDERS FOR APRIL 29 & 30, 2017

- **Be flexible, have a servant's heart, check your email on Saturday night!** – Our ability to flex and willingness to serve is fundamental to representing Christ in our community. If you are serving on a Sunday project, please note that projects can finish early or take longer than planned and you might be asked to move to a different project with a higher need. If that is the case, you'll be sent an email Saturday night with more information.
- **Last-minute sign-ups** – We have projects that can still use help so if you know someone who still wants to serve, have them sign up! Register online at weekendofservice.com Check out the projects marked as High Need with the red circle icon.
- **Where to meet for projects** – Go directly to your project location. **We are not meeting at North Coast Campuses.** Check your project on weekendofservice.com or your signup confirmation email for exact location.
- **How to find your Project Manager** – All Project Managers will be wearing red *Weekend of Service* T-shirts. On large projects, look for Project Hosts wearing lime green shirts.
- **What to bring** – In general you will need your own water, Weekend of Service T-shirt or clothes you can get dirty, a ready-to-serve attitude and anything else that would be useful on your project (check your project on weekendofservice.com or your signup confirmation email for any additional items needed). Mark everything with your name so you can take it home with you!
- **Need a *Weekend of Service* T-shirt?** Get your *Weekend of Service* T-shirt for \$5 at the church office during regular business hours throughout the week.
- **Free Childcare (6 mos-5 yrs) by reservation only** is available on the Vista Campus on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 7:30am -12:30pm. Register at weekendofservice.com. Childcare spots are expected to fill quickly so don't wait.
- **Questions during the weekend** – There will be an operator available at the church office (760) 724-6700.
- **Praises and prayer requests** – We have a prayer team praying the entire weekend while we're serving. If you have a praise or prayer request to share, you can call the church office at (760) 724-6700 or send an e-mail to info@northcoastchurch.com. It would be great to hear from you!
- **Social Media** – We'd love to see pictures and posts about your Weekend of Service experience! Share them with us:
 [facebook.com/NorthCoastChurchVista](https://www.facebook.com/NorthCoastChurchVista) •  or tag your pictures #weekendofservice

Thank you for serving!