

WEEK 4 |

WHERE IS GOD IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING?

WEEKLY OVERVIEW

In Rooted this week, we will examine one of the most common questions people have when considering faith in God: If this is God's world and He is good, powerful, and loving, why is there so much pain and suffering? People in the Bible, such as David, wrestled with the same questions. We can find comfort in suffering by receiving hope and comfort from God, recognizing that God often answers prayers in unexpected ways, and that our suffering can help us grow in Christ-like character.

NOTE

- All readings and devotional questions for this week will be completed in your Rooted Workbook.
- Complete the Final Reflections in your Companion Guide (next page) in preparation for your group discussion.

DAILY WORK

Day 1: The Reality of Hardship and Suffering | Read pages 68-69

Day 2: You Are Not Alone | Read pages 72-73

Day 3: Double-Fisted Faith | Read pages 75-76

Day 4: Our Response: Surrender | Read pages 79-80

Day 5: Character Like Christ | Read pages 82-83

MEMORY VERSE

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

– Philippians 4:6-7

EXTRA RESOURCES

- *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering* by Tim Keller
- *The Problem of Pain* by C.S. Lewis
- *Writing Your Own Lament* by Jenna Perrine

BEFORE YOU BEGIN...

Pause and ask God to show you what is most important for you to pay attention to in today's reading and reflection questions. Ask Him to help you surrender any concern over getting it right and instead focus on what He wants you to learn about who He is and what He wants to show you today.



FINAL REFLECTIONS

As you prepare for the conversation in your group, take a few moments to look over the readings and your responses from the past five days.

- What did God teach you this week? What questions do you have?
- What is one way God is inviting you to grow or change from this week's material?
- In light of this time of reflection, what are you asking God for?