

Why Does God Allow True Christians to Suffer?



Read: *Why Does God Allow True Christians to Suffer? (CBCG)*

Many Christians in the Bible suffered during their time on Earth.

Name 5 Biblical characters who suffered for being a follower of Christ.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Why do you think most Christians struggle or ignore the promise of suffering for those who follow Christ?



True or False?

- ___ God allows suffering in our lives.
- ___ There is always a purpose behind suffering.
- ___ God always takes our suffering away when we pray.
- ___ Innocent people do not suffer.
- ___ Nothing can disrupt God's purpose.



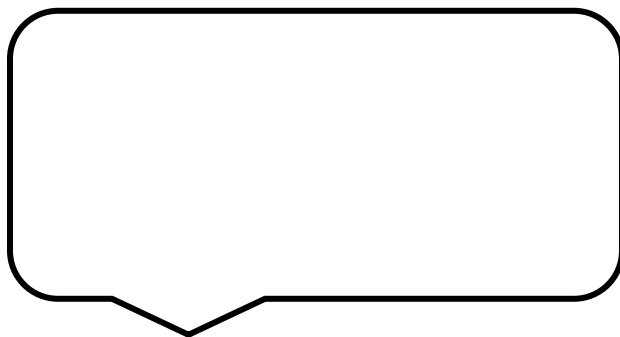
God is in Control

Every event and every suffering is under God's ___ _n_ ___ _l_ and serves His _p_ ___ _s_.

He is the potter and we are the ___ _a_ ___.

It is easy to believe that we (or others in greater authority) control daily circumstances. How do you remind yourself that God is in control?

Write a prayer in the speech bubble acknowledging God's control in your life.





This is Satan's World

All sin leads to __ _u_ __ _ __ _ __ _ __ _g_. Because we live in
__ _t_ __ _'s world, we should expect the same result.



God has Given Man IFMA

What does IFMA stand for?

I - _____

F - _____

M - _____

A - _____

God designed the world with universal natural __ _ __ _ __ _ , such as gravity. For example, bad __ _ __ _c_ __ _ __ _ __ _ __ _n_ __ _ lead to suffering. For every cause, there is an __ _f_ __ _ __ _ __ _t_ .

Think of 2 universal natural laws God has created. Describe them below.

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|

Which book in the Bible provides wisdom in many of these areas?

__ _ Psalms

__ _ Proverbs

__ _ Revelation



We Must Endure Suffering Like Christ

Christ is considered our ___l___r_ brother and the only way to God. Enduring suffering as He did is _a_ _____ to Him.

If there is no suffering in your life, you are a _____.

What does this mean? _____

Suffering should not be a part of overcoming the world. T F

Those hating the things of the world will face persecution. T F

Refusing to be part of the world will result in suffering. T F

Blessings in the New Covenant are related to suffering. T F

What are four things the disciples faced for following Christ? Draw and label them below.

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|

The blessings God emphasizes in the old and new covenants are different. Read the scripture to remind you how these are different and contrast the two kinds of blessings in the T-chart. Which covenant is in effect during our lives? _____

| Old Covenant Blessings | New Covenant Blessings |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Deut. 28 | Matt. 5, Heb. 11 |

What are 3 things suffering allows us to develop that draw us closer to God?

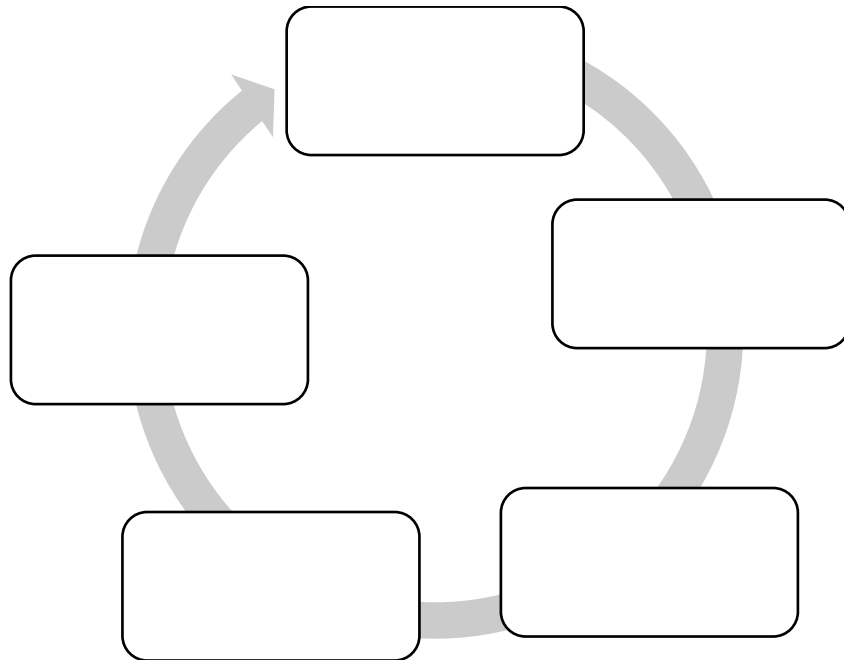
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What promises does God make to those who suffer for His name?

The one who suffers in the flesh is finished with sin. T F

God's natural correction cycle helps us to grow. T F

Re-create God's natural correction cycle below.



The suffering we experience through God's correction is so that we will...

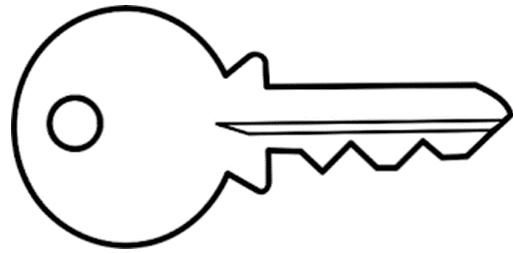
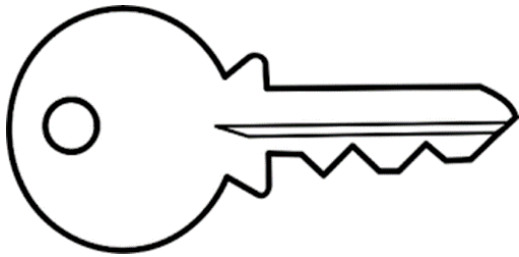
Read I Peter 3:14 & 15. What does God instruct us to do rather than be intimidated by the evil and sin around us?

1. _____
2. _____

Describe the attitude we are to have with those who are against us using 3 words mentioned in this passage.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
|--|--|--|

What are 2 key things Job learned from his suffering? Write them in the keys below.



List 3 types of suffering.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
|--|--|--|

Think of 3 ways you have suffered. Identify the fruit God is growing in you through that suffering.

| Suffering | Godly Fruit |
|-----------|-------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |



True or False?

- ___ God allowed Job's suffering so that he could grow spiritually.
- ___ We can remain faithful during trials due to our mental toughness.
- ___ God tells us we should not be intimidated by the world & sin.
- ___ Suffering brings us closer to God.
- ___ It is possible to have faith in times of disaster, plague, & trial.



Footprints

Read the poem, *Footprints*, at the end of the study. Explain a time when Christ's footprints were the only ones seen because He carried you through a trial.



Your Response

God expects us to prepare ourselves for the challenges and suffering we can expect ahead. How can we do this?

What are 3 things you learned today?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What are 2 things you will do differently this week as a result?

1. _____
2. _____

Suffering

Find the words related to suffering for Christ below.

A T O J F W I U H B C O V A A X O U K A
 Z Y S R I I A K X E E T L L U L T I K Z
 P Y T Z M K D P O T G O D L I N E S S G
 M T C R J B S Q R F F X I L Q P L D G V
 A I V K U G A C N B E C C E B R B O S G
 M L E C A R G T C M I S T A K E S Y M I
 C I B H K O R A H M P O P T J B V Q G S
 D M D F T Y X H A Q C L J A Y Q F J G I
 B U E K A R O E R D B B G Y D D V I I M
 I H Q M D N I S A C E W Q N V H L B X P
 T O T C O G J B C A G D U O I U N V U X
 Q J G C O C N V T H W X M A P S K X X X
 N R L N I L R I E I R Y W I V C S N V F
 P R O M I S E E R N X G H U T X N E M F
 A L F X Z N A R V E D U R C Q M W Q L G
 Q Y I W K Z R D K O F U K P T C H R U B
 A A C C E P T A N C E F R J E B W G I W
 A D Y T L Y C C E T Z L U E P F S R M O
 I I J W R I E G N L B U J S Q R O C D P
 Y D K T D U V Q I R C S K G W I U S S W

SUFFERING
 CHARACTER
 MISTAKES
 OVERCOME

HUMILITY
 GODLINESS
 ENDURE
 BLESSING

GRACE
 LEARNING
 PROMISE
 ACCEPTANCE



GOD

*is our refuge
and strength,
an ever present
help in trouble*

- PSALM 46:1