



Life Hurts: God Heals

To the leader:

Open your group in prayer, and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the notes, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions at the end of the page.

On Sunday, Pastor Nick continued in our "Giving Up on God" series by talking about pain and how to handle the hurts in our lives. A common question that many of us ask is "Why would God allow hurt?" and, "How do I handle hurt in my life that I didn't ask for?" Nick taught the story of Lazarus, through which, we learned 4 lessons about pain: God permits pain, God has a purpose for pain, God is present in pain and God makes a promise about pain. Life hurts but God heals. We were encouraged to look at life not from a perspective of pain, but from a perspective of purpose.

- ◆ What is the worst physical pain that you have ever experienced?

Let's review the points from the message Sunday:

1. God permits pain

*"God did not create it. He does permit it.
He never condones it and does combat it."*

- ◆ In what way does this influence your view of and faith in Him?

2. God has a purpose for pain

*"Don't just look at life from a perspective of pain,
but look at pain from the perspective of purpose."*

- ◆ Which of the two purposes of pain that were shared (draws us closer to Jesus and to others) have you experienced to be the truest in your life?
- ◆ As you think of a pain in your life that you have journeyed through, in what way(s) have you seen the purpose behind it? How has this changed your perspective of that pain?

3. God is present in pain

"You can either suffer with God or without God."

- ◆ In what way does God's promise of His presence give you hope in the midst of pain?
- ◆ Describe a time where you felt the Lord close to you when you were brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18).

4. God makes a promise about pain

"Jesus promises to bring to life the things in your life that seem and appear dead if you trust Him."

- ◆ What exactly is God's promise to you in regards to your pain? In what way is taking it away like it never happened not the true reason for your pain?

Now what?

- ◆ Stop denying the pain
 - In what way is denying your pain never going to ultimately solve the problem?
 - What pain in your life do you need to identify and define?
- ◆ Start giving it to God
 - In what way(s) have you experienced God's deliverance in your life in an area that doesn't involve pain?
 - What promises does God make to those who give their pain to God?

Three Essential Questions

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

