



## Here Comes Trouble - Week 2

### Suffering and Death - Discussion & Reflection Guide

#### Questions and Prompts:

- **Quickly share one beautiful thing you witnessed this week.**
- **What stood out to you from Sunday's service?** How did you sense God at work in you through the songs and the message? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- Read and spend time with the scripture passage where Jesus had a heart-to-heart with his followers. **Read John 16:16-33.** Have someone read the passages out loud if you're in a group. Try to imagine the scene in your mind—including what emotions are present, etc.
  - What do you notice about the disciples? What do they understand and what do they miss?
  - What do you notice about Jesus? What is he trying to convey to his friends?
  - Is there a word or phrase that stands out to you from this passage?
- Eddie shared, "Jesus tells the truth about pain and suffering – and about the resources we have to completely overcome it." With Jesus' words from John 16 in mind, consider the following questions.
  - **What does Jesus say about pain and suffering?**
  - **How does Jesus talk about how to overcome?**
- The sermon offered three takeaways:
  - It is normal to be perplexed by how God works.
  - Heartbreak is unavoidable.
  - We have an enemy who seeks to exploit our suffering.

**How do you react to these statements? What challenges you? What action does this prompt?**

- Read these words from the sermon: "God is never confused about what he is doing, though we often are. So, offer your whole life to him. Seek him in all circumstances. Entrust your best days to him. Entrust your worst days to him." **What are some practical ways to do this? Make a list of simple ways you can do this.**

- Eddie encouraged us to spend time with more of Jesus' words in John 14-17 this week. Consider making this longer section of scripture part of your time with Jesus this week.
- **Is there anything else from the message you want to explore more deeply this week?**

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at [info@wschurch.org](mailto:info@wschurch.org).

### **Dealing with Difficulties and Disappointments -**

<https://www.wschurch.org/seriesresources>

Life is full of challenges and disappointments but hope and healing are possible. We have collected staff selected resources for our *Here Comes Trouble* teaching series to help you learn and grow—even in difficult circumstances. You'll find our digital resource, Dealing with Difficulties and Disappointments, which offers some simple, practical steps, using the link above. There's also a way you can reach out to talk to someone for care and support. Be sure to check back each week for new resources to go along with each message.

### **Message Main Points & Scripture:**

- John 16:16 - "In a little while you won't see me anymore. But a little while after that, you will see me again."
- John 16:19 - "Are you asking yourselves what I meant? I said in a little while you won't see me, but a little while after that you will see me again. I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy."
- John 16:22 - "So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy."
- John 16:32-33 - "But the time is coming – indeed it's here now – when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."
- **Eternal joy always outweighs earthly pain – every time.**
- **Jesus' agony on the cross means that God truly does identify with human suffering.**
- **It is normal to be perplexed by how God works.**
- Isaiah 55:8 - "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine."
- **Heartache is unavoidable.**
- 1 Peter 4:12 – "Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world."
- 1 Peter 1:6 – "So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for A LITTLE WHILE."
- **We have an enemy who seeks to exploit our suffering.**

- John 8:44 - “He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.”
- **Every word Satan speaks is either a lie, or even more sinister, a truth he wants you to misapply.**
- 1 Peter 1:7 – “These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.”
- **The presence of trouble does not equal the absence of God.**