

PART 5: Through the Eyes of a Lion

INTRODUCTION

When we face pain and loss, they change the story we had planned for our lives. They end dreams. They change our perspective. They alter our desired destinations. Pain can knock us back on our heels and make us wonder how we can even make sense of our lives. What do you do when difficult circumstances challenge your perspective on life and God? What does pain look like when we try to see the world as God sees the world, and to do as God says?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you face pain and loss, do you tend to seek out other people or isolate yourself? How do you think that tendency affects your ability to navigate pain and loss well?
2. Think about a time when you faced pain and loss. Did it draw you closer to God or push you away from him?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16–18. How difficult is it for you to see your troubles as small and temporary? Do you think that's a reasonable perspective? Why or why not?
4. During the message, Levi said, "Suffering is not an obstacle to you being used by God. It's an opportunity to be used like never before." Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?
5. Have you ever been used by God because of the pain you've experienced? If so, what happened? How did the experience change you?
6. Are you struggling with pain and loss right now? If so, what can you do this week to begin to look beyond your pain, live with earnest expectation, learn to see something new in your normal, and identify scare tactics to manage fear? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

Suffering is not an obstacle to you being used by God. It's an opportunity to be used like never before. When you face pain, look beyond that pain, live with earnest expectation, learn to see something new in your normal, and employ scare tactics. It will help you see as God sees, and to do as he says.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet, they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever. 2 Corinthians 4:16–18

