

Tough Stuff: Zoom Out

Bruce Wesley

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1. How does our culture explain the occurrence of suffering in our world? How do you respond to others' questions about suffering?
2. Read Romans 8:28. In what ways do we apply this verse to "zoom in" on personal suffering in order to explain its purpose?
3. Read Genesis 50:20. How have you seen the benefits of someone's personal suffering in a clear and obvious way?
4. Read Romans 8:15-28. How does reading this passage affect your perspective on verse 28?
5. In what ways have you experienced the futility and corruption of creation?
6. Read Matthew 19:28. What difference can it make if we live with the end in mind?
7. What does it look like to be simultaneously "groaning inwardly" and "waiting eagerly?"
8. What are you placing your hope in? Are you waiting for it with patience?
9. While we exist in a suffering world, we are called to do four things: Worship, Walk, Work, and Wait. How are you doing on each of these when you are personally suffering? How have these actions made a difference for you in the midst of hurt? Which of these is most difficult for you to do right now?