

Review:

Lesson 1: Life-changing Failure

Lesson 2: Restoration & Truth

Restoration and Suffering

John 19:1-5

Our struggles in this life neither entitle us to nor disqualify us from genuine spiritual restoration. But we can be assured that the God who restores us _____ our struggles intimately.

Discussion 1. Why does it matter that the God who restores us actually knows and understands our struggles and difficulties? How does that impact your engagement with spiritual restoration? How would it be different if God had NOT come down and experienced unspeakable pain for himself?

Jesus paid an extraordinary price for our restoration; not only on the cross, but throughout his entire journey into humanity from the manger to the cross. It is the single most _____ benefit we have in this life.

Discussion 2. When you begin to understand what Jesus suffered physically in order to “purchase” your spiritual restoration, how does it make you feel? How does it make you pray? How does it impact your commitment to him?

It is a humbling thing when those of us who think we can manipulate people or circumstances to bring about what we want encounter a _____ who has his own ideas about how things should go.

Discussion 3. Pilate thought he could manipulate these circumstances, but he could not...God was in control, not Pilate. Can you recall a time or circumstance in your own life when God “reminded” you that you are not in control? What did you learn?

Sometimes, genuine restoration requires that we sit long in the pain and the misery and the _____ our failures cause ourselves and others. Restoration rarely comes as quickly as we hope.

Discussion 4. Can you recall a time when your failure caused someone else to suffer? Why do you think it is important to “sit in that pain” for a while BEFORE being reconciled or restored?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?