

Sermon Discussion Guide

Enduring Suffering

1 Thessalonians 3:1–5

Threatened by suffering (1,3,5)

- What is the greatest threat that suffering poses to us?
- What does Satan seek to do to believers during times of suffering?
- What are some of the ways Satan tempts you during times of suffering?
- How should you respond to suffering's threat to your faith/trust in Christ?

Appointed to suffering (3b–4)

- Should Christians expect to experience affliction and trials in this life?
- What are the two broad categories of suffering we've been appointed to in this life?
- Why is it important for us to know that suffering is a "normal" part of the Christian life?
- How does knowing that suffering is part of the Christian life help you endure suffering?

Strengthened to endure suffering (2–3a)

- What are some of the ways God is at work in us through the experience of suffering?
 - From Keller's book *Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering*
 - Suffering humbles us.
 - Suffering changes our relationship to the good things in our lives.
 - Suffering deepens our relationship with God.
 - Suffering enables us to minister to others (see 2 Cor. 1:3–11).

Conclusion

- How does Jesus' suffering for us at the cross give us hope when we suffer?