

## Real.Life.Journey – Week 2: SOVEREIGN IN SUFFERING

- 1) Did you memorize Philippians 1:6? Have someone in your group recite it from memory. Was this difficult? What was different, in you, this past week because you committed this to memory?
- 2) Have you gone through a season of suffering recently? Are you going through one right now? If you are willing, share what was (or is) going on with the group.
- 3) What was your response (or what is currently your response) to this season of suffering? Which of the following most closely resembles your response?
  - **Come & See** - "Life isn't fair. I'm a victim. If there is a God, then He is mean and He is picking on me. More likely, there is no God."
  - **Come & Follow** - "I now know that this life is NOT all there is. I have trusted Christ and am looking forward to a better life in heaven. But...this life stinks! I have to do the best I can to suck it up and muddle through and make the best of it. If things are going to change – it's up to me."
  - **Come & Surrender** - "There is not only a better future for me after this life, but there is joy in this life as well, even in the midst of suffering. God, who is infinitely trustworthy, is still in control, even though I feel like I have lost all control. I feel safe and secure knowing that I am not in control."
  - **Go & Multiply** - "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. I want God to be glorified in my life regardless of what happens to me. In some way God's gospel will advance as a result of my suffering, either in me or in others, and I am looking for that opportunity."

### ***Read Philippians 1:12-26.***

- 4) Read Philippians 1:21 together: "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Discuss what this means. Have each person in the group share what this means in their own words, using language that is familiar to them. Collectively come up with a sentence or two that expresses the meaning of this verse for your group.
- 5) Thinking of your past or current suffering, how would you answer the following questions:
  - How is God using this to move me closer to YOU2.0 (Christ-like character)?
  - How is God using this to bring others to Christ?
- 6) Based on how you have been responding to suffering, what would your "next step" be if you were to move ahead in maturity in this particular area? What is one thing that you could do to move in that direction?
- 7) Read aloud together Philippians 1:21, and make a commitment to memorize this verse before the next time you meet:

***For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.***

*(Spend some time in prayer for one another)*