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## MESSAGE APPLICATION Guide

*Start with an icebreaker question to get everyone talking then choose the questions that work best for your group.*

### Elephant in The Room – Week 3 Why Does God Allow Suffering?

#### ICE-BREAKER:

Has God ever used suffering to get your attention? If so, please share what happened.

**READ:** *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

- **John 16:33 (NIV)**

#### DISCUSS:

How does this passage make you feel?

Have everyone name at least one lesson you have learned through suffering.

**READ:** *"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation."*

- **Romans 5:3-4 (NLT2)**

What keeps us from being full of joy and hope in the middle of difficult circumstances?

How can suffering produce positive rather than negative results in our lives?

**READ:** *"Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered."*

- **Hebrews 5:8 (NLT2)**

#### APPLY:

If Jesus learned obedience through suffering, then why would that be any less true of us?

In what specific areas and/or circumstances do you need to stop grumbling and stay focused on joy in Christ right now?

How would your faith hold up in the fire of suffering today?