



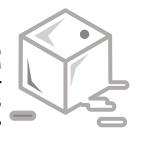
WEEK OF MAY 25, 2025

Because He Lives, I Can Face Some Suffering!

SPEAKER: PASTOR MIKE BURNETTE

ICEBREAKER

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS SUMMER? ANY TRAVEL PLANS?



INTRODUCTION:

What does your life look like when comparing your faith to Jesus to your faith in the world? (i.e. politics, cultural norms, work, family)

ALWAYS REMEMBER OUR RISEN SAVIOR V.8:

- How are you keeping Jesus as your focus? What is your favorite way to spend time with God? What sparks your memory to turn your thoughts to God?
- How do you celebrate the resurrection of Jesus beyond Easter?
- If you aren't a believer, what do you think about the history outside of the bible, that documents Jesus's death and no body found in the tomb?
- If you meet with Christ daily (front-load your day with God), He knows what we're going to deal with. How does that give you peace?

OUR SUFFERING HAS A PURPOSE...FOR OTHERS V. 9-10

- What does it look like for you to suffer for the gospel and how has suffering changed for you since you started following Christ?
- After knowing that Paul was beaten, imprisoned, and beheaded for his faith, how does it change the way you view persecution in your life as a Christian?

 If most of us are honest, we want to avoid suffering and at all costs. However, it allows us to grow in Christ and builds character. Take some time to share a time when you experienced suffering and how God used it to grow you.

WE MUST STAY INTIMATELY TIED IN WITH JESUS - V.11-13

- What does it mean and look like to be intimately tied to Jesus?
- What in your life is evidence that you are intimately tied to Jesus?
- Even in seasons of suffering where you have chosen or been tempted to choose to turn away from God, He remains faithful and eagerly waits for us. How does that challenge any worldly view of God that you have?



ENCOURAGE

If you front load your life with focus on Jesus, whenever it gets tough, you'll be fine! You may be dealing with suffering today, but be encouraged, your suffering has a purpose. We are being formed and shaped in His image, the way God created us to be.



ASK

Does the life you live look like you are reigning with Jesus? Does the life you live look like you are living with Him?



CHALLENGE

For the next week and beyond, spend your time thanking God, every day. When you face tough times, say a prayer of Thanks because you know that He is walking through it with you. Because He lives, you get to face tomorrow. When was the last time you thanked God for that?

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for being trustworthy, reliable, and open.
Because you live, walk, and face challenges on this earth, I can stand and face life as it happens to me and around me. Lord, you are the opposite of my nature, and my strength comes from you. Today, I can say thank you for my good days and my bad days because I know they all come to increase my strength and sharpen my focus. Thank you for being my constant, everlasting father—my trust is in you.