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September 22, 2019

ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM
**Why Does God Allow Suffering?**

**Chad Cobb**

3 Sources of Suffering

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How to Get Through Suffering

1. I know that God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. I know that God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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**Why does God allow suffering?**

**Introduction:**

Chad said, some of our biggest challenges to our faith will come in these questions: If God allows pain and suffering, does that mean he doesn’t care or is detached or indifferent to my pain? and If I am going through something painful, did God cause it? Is he punishing me for something that I have done in the past?

**Getting Started:**

1. How have you had to wrestle with these questions in the past? Where do you currently sit with them?
2. Chad mentioned three different causes for suffering:

 Sinful human nature, Spiritual attack, Broken creation

Talk through each of these causes. What do you think about the list? How do each cause suffering?

**Digging Deeper:**

**Read Lamentations 3:20-22, Philippians 2:5-8**

1. How have you been able to remind yourself that **God loves me** in the middle of suffering?

**Read Deuteronomy 31:6, Isaiah 43:2, Matthew 28:20**

1. How have you experienced that **God is with me** in the midst of a suffering?

**Read Romans 8:28, Romans 5:3-4**

1. Do you believe that **God has a plan** for everything? Does that help in times of suffering?
2. Share a time when suffering matured you positively?

Chad said, “one of the outcomes of hardship is that it creates a longing and thirst for heaven.”

1. Do you think God allows suffering so we will long for heaven?
2. What does it look like to help others going through suffering with these truths?



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