

Module Overview:

In this module, we will discuss the meaning and purpose of sanctification, how God allows suffering as a part of the process, and how to have trust, patience, and hope.

Module 5, Week 1: Understanding the Meaning and Process of Sanctification

In **1 Thessalonians 4:3**, we learn that it is God's will for His children to be set apart from the world's ways and for them to become pure and holy like Jesus. The process known as sanctification is when God shapes our character, desires, and actions over time to be reflect His nature and character.

1. In **1 Thessalonians 5:3** we read: *We pray that God himself, the God of peace, will make you pure—belonging only to him. We pray that your whole self—spirit, soul, and body—will be kept safe and be blameless when our Lord Jesus Christ comes.*

Question: According to this verse, how do we become pure and what is considered the "whole self"? When we belong to God, He makes us pure; the whole self includes our spirit, soul, and body.

2. **Romans 8:29a** explains the purpose of sanctification in the life of a believer: *God knew what He was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son, Jesus. The Son stands first in the line of humanity He restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in Jesus...*

Question: Who stands first in the "restored" line of humanity and how do we know what the original and intended shape of our lives should be? Jesus, God's Son, lived as a person and reflected the original and intended shape of humanity, and we can read about his life and ministry in the New Testament of the Bible.

3. In **1 Corinthians 1:30**, we read: *It is God who has made you part of Christ Jesus. And Christ has become for us wisdom from God. He is the reason we are right with God and pure enough to be in his presence. Christ is the one who set us free from sin.*

Question: According to this verse, who sets us free from sin and why do we need to be "purified" of sin? Jesus Christ sets believers free from their sin so they will be right with God and able to be in God's presence.

4. In **Galatians 5:16 & 17** we are advised to follow *"the Holy Spirit's instructions. He will tell you where to go and what to do, and then you won't always be doing the wrong things your evil nature wants you to. For we naturally love to do evil things that are just the opposite from the things that the Holy Spirit tells us to do...these two forces within us are constantly fighting each other to win control over us..."*

Question: According to these verses, what two forces are constantly fighting each other to win the hearts and minds of believers? All people have a human nature and those trusting Jesus as Savior have two forces within them: their human nature AND the Holy Spirit.

Let's Talk About It:

- How is sanctification different from simply trying to be a "better person"?
- Who initiates and carries out the process of sanctification, and why does this matter?
- What areas of life does sanctification affect – behavior, thoughts, relationships, identity?

Challenge: For the next four days, read chapters 1, 8, 10, and 14 from the book of John in the New Testament of the Bible to understand the life and nature of Jesus.

Module 5, Week 2: How suffering shapes our faith

Last week, we talked about the process of God shaping His children to be like Jesus in holiness and purity. This week, we will talk about suffering, which is unavoidable in life. Whether it be emotional and/or physical suffering, we can trust God to be with us through it.

1. **Romans 5:3-5** reads: *We are happy even when we have troubles and pain. That is because we know that those troubles help us to become patient and strong. And when we remain strong, we show that we trust God. When we trust God like that, it causes us to hope for God's help. And when we hope like that, it will not disappoint us.*

Question: According to these verses, how does suffering help us to trust God? When we are suffering and in pain, we hope for God's help, and this produces patience and a strong relationship with God.

2. **James 1:2-4** reads: *Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.*

Question: During difficult or painful times, how is it possible to have patience? By accepting suffering as an opportunity to trust God more and believing that He is using every detail of the circumstance to purify and strengthen us.

3. **John 16:33** tells us that if we trust in Jesus, we can have peace even when we are suffering, and **Romans 8:28** reads: *We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

Question: What promises from God are contained in these verses? By trusting in Jesus, we can trust that God is working in every circumstance to bring about what's good for us and this helps us to remember that there is purpose in suffering.

4. **2 Corinthians 4:16-17** reads: *Yes, our bodies are getting older and weaker. But our spirits are becoming stronger every day! We have these little troubles that continue for a short time. But as a result, we will receive the great things that God has prepared for us. Those great things are much more important than our little troubles. And God's great things will continue forever!*

Question: How do these verses encourage us and give us hope, even when we are suffering emotionally or physically? By accepting suffering as a part of life and trusting that God is able to work out the details, even when we cannot see how, we grow stronger in our faith and more dependent on Him for the outcome.

Let's Talk About It:

- Why does suffering produce a deeper reliance on God?
- How can suffering reveal what we truly trust?
- How does suffering shape us and reflect the heart of Jesus to the world?
- What dangers exist if we interpret suffering as abandonment by God?

Challenge: Consider a past hardship that later produced deeper faith in God. Reflect on what changed because of it.

Module 5, Week 3: How to trust God in your suffering

We have been talking about sanctification—the process of God shaping His children to be like Jesus in holiness and purity—and how suffering is the primary context God uses for spiritual growth. This week, we will talk about how to trust God in times of suffering, which may include emotional/psychological or physical suffering.

1. **Isaiah 53** tells us this about Jesus: *He was hated and rejected by people. He had much pain and suffering. But he took our suffering on him and felt our pain for us. We saw his suffering. We thought God was punishing him. But he was wounded for the wrong things we did. He was crushed for the evil things we did. The punishment, which made us well, was given to him. And we are healed because of his wounds.*

Question: According to these verses, how did Jesus suffer and what was the outcome? He was hated and rejected and suffered greatly; He took on the punishment of humanity on the cross and died for our sins, and then He was resurrected to eternal life, offering us healing from our sin.

2. **1 Peter 2:21** reads: *You were called to this kind of endurance, because Christ suffered on your behalf. He left you an example so that you might follow in his footsteps.*

Question: What was the example of Jesus that was given to us? He gave us the example of enduring deep suffering, even to the point of death, without turning on or away from God.

3. **Isaiah 43:2**: *When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you; your troubles will not overwhelm you. When you pass through fire, you will not be burned; the hard trials that come will not hurt you.*

Question: According to this verse, what are God's promises in our suffering? God guards and guides us and is close to us in all suffering and difficult circumstances. We are never alone or left to figure it out on our own.

4. **Galatians 6:2** reads: *When anyone among you has troubles, you must help each other. If you do that, you will be obeying Christ's rule.*

Question: Why would Jesus want us to we help each other in times of trouble and suffering? Because it reflects His love and how He helps and comforts us.

Let's Talk About It:

- How does our hope in Jesus anchor us beyond present circumstances and in times of suffering?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to trust God during times of suffering and exhaustion?
- How can a faith community of friends help us to endure and have hope in hard times?

Prayer: Sanctification is not a straight line, and suffering is not a detour — it is often the road itself. Through trust, patience, and hope, believers learn not only what God is doing, but who God is.

Dear God,

Please meet us in our times of suffering with comfort, wisdom, and peace. Teach us to trust you and to hope in your promises as you work in and through our pain. Please help us to have compassion and kindness towards those who are suffering and to be willing to encourage and help them as you have helped us.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Module 5, Week 4: INSPIRE Week

Welcome to our group! We are so glad you are here [Introduce your leadership team].

We get together every week to talk about God, what He says in the Bible, and discuss different life topics. Even though we are a student-led Christian group, all students are welcome here. This is a reliable and safe place to make friends, learn about God, and feel connected.

Now, let's open the meeting in prayer [student leader prays].

This is **INSPIRE Week** and it's an opportunity to hear faith stories and the good news of Jesus.

The Bible verse we're working from is **Hebrews 3:15**: *God is still saying now, 'Today, when you hear me speak, do not make your hearts hard. That is what happened when the people turned against me.'*

A Student leader shares their faith story NOW

Prayer and invitation:

We will now take a minute to talk to God through prayer. In the quiet of your heart and mind, I invite anyone here who wants to begin a relationship with God through faith in Jesus, to agree in your heart and mind with what I am saying because God hears our private thoughts. I will pray out loud and I invite you to pray this in your head:

Dear Heavenly Father,

I come to you with an open heart. I acknowledge my selfishness and how it has separated me from you. Even though I may not fully understand, I believe that Jesus is the way back to you and want to place my trust in Him today. Help me to turn from doing things my way and release my life over to you. Thank you for promising to hear and answer my prayer.

In Jesus Name, I pray. Amen

Pass out Response Cards NOW

If this is your prayer today, know that God welcomes you into His family, and you can begin walking in a new relationship with Him right now. And please join us for next week's meeting when we will start a new module.

Challenge: Remember to invite your friends to church or youth group.