

hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
Romans 5:3-5 (ESV)

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4 (ESV)

God uses suffering to train us in holiness.

...we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:8-11 (ESV)

Christians are better off eternally because they suffer temporarily.

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 2 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)

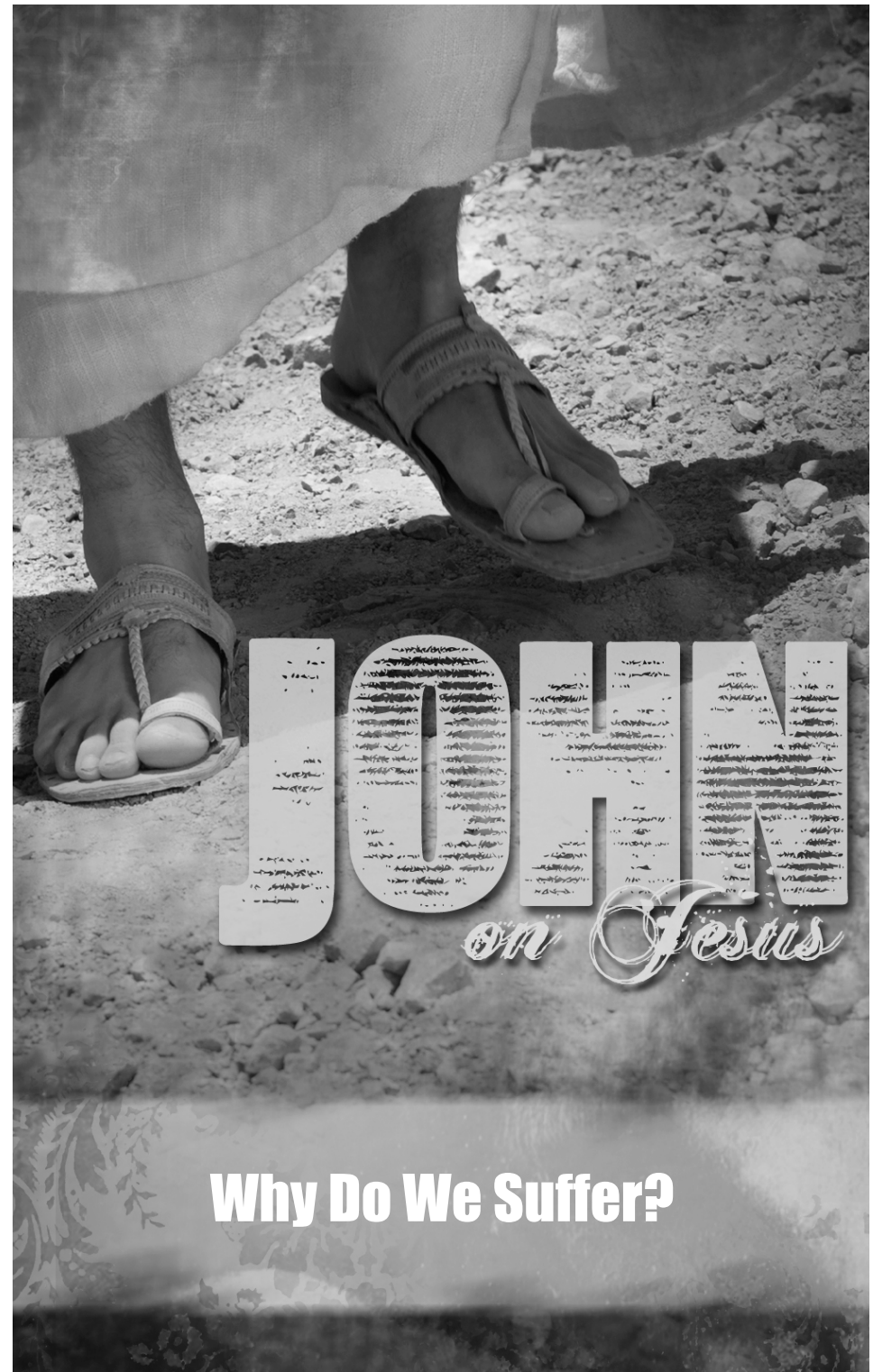
A Christian's suffering is not payback for sin.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1 (ESV)

Suffering, for the Christian, is always used by God for our good and for Christ's glory.

Check www.JOHNOnJESUS.com for more
All teaching material is also available at www.christ2Rculture.com

November 18- John 9 - Blind Man
November 25 - Thanksgiving Service



Faith Church - EFCA

November 11, 2012

John 9:1-12

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" John 9:1-2 (ESV)

Suffering doesn't have a simple answer

Sometimes I suffer because of the sin of others.

Sometimes I suffer because of my own sin.

Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you." John 5:14 (ESV)

That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. 1 Corinthians 11:30 (ESV)

God uses suffering to work in and through our lives.

God uses suffering to open our eyes to Jesus.

God uses suffering to teach us to rely on Christ rather than ourselves.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV)

God uses suffering to give us a time of closer connection with him.

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me! Job 19:25-27 (ESV)

God uses suffering to comfort us so we can comfort others with the comfort we received from God.

who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 2 Corinthians 1:4 (ESV)

Suffering is the instrument God uses to grow our perseverance.

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our