

Psalm 66 – Praising God for His Mighty Acts

Lesson 3 Study Questions

1. Watch Elisabeth Elliot teach Lesson 1, “The Terrible Truth,” of her series “Suffering is Not for Nothing,” which was transcribed into her book “Suffering is Never for Nothing,” and complete the discussion questions below.

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/series/suffering-is-not-for-nothing/the-terrible-truth/>

A. In the opening paragraph, Elisabeth wrote, “I prayed silently, Lord, let not the waters overflow. And He heard me and He answered me.” Have you ever spoken a prayer of desperation like this? How did God answer?

B. “The deepest things that I have learned in my own life have come from the deepest suffering.” What lessons has God taught you through suffering?

C. Who makes you feel like you’re “in kindergarten” in the school of suffering? What do you admire about how they respond (or responded) to their circumstances?

D. Elisabeth told us a “terrible truth” in this chapter: the fact “that suffering is not for nothing” and has “an eternal and perfectly loving purpose behind it . . . (is) not obvious.” What is your reaction to this idea—that God’s providence is often hidden behind our suffering? How have you seen this in your own life?

E. What truths (“terrible” or otherwise) from Scripture help you to stand fast and find hope when suffering hits? (Here are some places to start: Philippians 3:7-9; Romans 5:1-5; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7. Also read New Morning Mercies for April 22.)

2. Where have you seen God “test” or “refine” you? Read Psalm 66:10: “For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined.” Where do you think He still has refining work to do in you?

3. Read 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, and then read David Guzik’s commentary from Blue Letter Bible:

https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/guzik_david/StudyGuide2017-2Ch/2Ch-4.cfm

Why does Paul say your suffering is “light affliction”? How might you be able to consider your suffering “light affliction?” What is the change in your perspective that will ease your burden?

4. Read Psalm 34. List corporate and individual applications of the Lord’s deliverance found throughout. After meditating on this Psalm, write a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God.