**Sunday: Getting Started**

1. What stands out to you from the above and why?
2. Did anything in particular stand out to you from the first half of Paige's teaching? If so, why?
3. Jesus also used the picture of labor pains to explain what will happen to the world before His return. Just as a woman's labor increases in intensity as the birth draws near, so will trouble in our world increase in intensity before Jesus returns. How can you see that with the seven seals judgments? (See Revelation 6:12-17 and 11:15-19)

**Monday: Review and Love Letter**

In all of Romans 8 there are no imperatives, it is a description of the normal Christian life. Justification is the legal reality. Adoption is the relational reality. Sanctification is the process of becoming holy, which we are experiencing now, but will fully happen when we see Him face to face. An important part of the process of sanctification involves the refining fires of suffering.

Last week Paige gave the following assignment. Take some time with it today.

\*4. Often we will make a love-list for someone precious in our lives to celebrate a milestone or occasion. Make your own “Things I Love About You” list for the Father. And then make another one: “Things I Love About the Way You Love Me.” (If you are doing this in a small group, have each person share two things from each letter -- and if possible, one brief illustration such as, "I love God's timing, as I saw it last week, which was a horrible no good week, and then I heard Paige's teaching on adoption and felt sooooo loved.")

#### Tuesday: Reality of Suffering: The Fall

The premise of the false teaching of the health and wealth gospel is that God's will for believers on this earth is to be healthy, wealthy, and happy, and if you are not, it is due to a lack of faith. Paige loves Joni, as do I. Joni said, "God’s purpose for us is not necessarily to make us healthy, wealthy, or even happy (though He is pleased to do so) but to make us holy."

5. What thoughts do you have on the above?

6. What evidence can you see that every corner of the universe is affected by the fall?

7. There are four pictures of God's wrath begin poured out in Revelation, which all describe the same time period, but are four different perspectives. Which two perspectives have we already covered? Did it surprise you how much suffering is described in Revelation? Do you remember the purpose of it for believers? How does this go against the teaching of the health and wealth gospel?

8. What is Paul's testimony in 2 Corinthians 11:23-29? Did these things happen to him before or after Christ rescued him?

\*9. Read 2 Corinthians 4:14-18. How do these verses echo the call to hope? How is it encouraged by comparison (v.17)? Of sight? Of length of time? Of weightiness?

\*10.So how do we regard ourselves in the present (v. 7)?

\*11. Continue reading in 2 Corinthians 5:1-5. What causes the groaning in this passage? Is it a lack of faith? An abandonment by God?

\*12. Is our groaning caused by our frustration with the present and a heart fixed on God or by our fixation on the present and frustration with God?

#### Wednesday: Reality of Suffering: Family and Fellowship

13. Read Romans 8:18-25

A. What is the main point of verse 18? Does that help you right now in your present suffering?

B. Who subjected the creation to futility?

C. What hope do we have and what metaphor is used in verse 22?

D. What do we have now and what do we not have yet according to verse 23?

14. How is the purpose for suffering different for a child of God than for what Revelation calls "an earth dweller" (not a child of God.) Why is it a mark of being in the family?

15. Paige told a story about Corrie ten Boom reaching out to a guard for compassion when she learned of her father's death. What did she realize? And then how did God meet her?

16. Where do you tend to run first when you are suffering? What have you learned?

17. Do you remember anything from the Paul Brand story with lepers?

#### Thursday: Revelation of Glory (To Us)

Paige quoted J. B. Phillips paraphrase of verse 19: "The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own. "  She quoted Tolkien who said we have an appetite for glory.

18. How would you define glory? Why wasn't Moses allowed to see God's glory?

19. How soon will we see Jesus after we die? What do you think that will be like?

20. What thoughts do you have about how **we and this world** will be changed in the New Heaven and New Earth?

#### Friday:

21. What is your take-a-way this week and why?