



WEEK TWO: **Suffering/Pain/Injustice**

ONE CHURCH — ONE MESSAGE:

LENTEN MESSAGE SERIES

WEEK TWO : Suffering/Pain/Injustice

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:8-10

What does God want us to know? Suffering is a part of life and God can use it for our growth.

What does God want us to do? Decide that when you are going through a period of suffering or injustice (lost job, illness, teenage child rebelling) that God might be using it to grow your faith. Instead of praying for the thorn to be removed, pray that God will use it.

God's original design for the world was good and operated without suffering and injustice. When sin entered, so did suffering. This was not part of God's original plan. God does not cause suffering, but allows it and can use it for our growth. The transfiguration occurred shortly after Peter first confessed that Jesus was indeed the Messiah and that he would suffer and die. The close connection between the transfiguration and Peter's confession is significant – the Messiah must suffer but glorification, not suffering, is his ultimate fate. This was reassurance for the disciples to see Jesus “changed” and “glorified” as they contemplated what was about to happen to Jesus and to them (a future of suffering for Christ). We are also expected to endure some suffering for Christ as Paul says in today's second reading.