

## WHEN SUFFERING IS A PRIVILEGE!

Scripture used: Philippians 1:29 (NLT)

### OVERVIEW

This week we take a break from the “Don’t Panic!” series to talk about NBCC’s growth, and how it is stretching the entire community. God is calling our church to put ourselves out there more, following in the footsteps of Paul. Part of following Jesus means suffering for others. That is the example He set for us, and it helps us to deepen our relationship with Him. That is how suffering can be a privilege!

### KEY POINTS

**Big Idea:** When we choose to follow Jesus, we must prepare to suffer for the sake of others.

- 1) **Modern culture sees suffering differently than Christianity.** It focuses on three extremely negative, overlapping perspectives:
  - a. Pain that is imposed on us involuntarily.
  - b. Victimization, in the sense of injustice and/or abuse.
  - c. Something to be avoided at all costs.
- 2) **Paul explains two types of suffering.** He helps us understand the difference between the two, and why we need to separate them to deepen our relationship with Jesus.
  - a. The kind of suffering that is common to everyone.
  - b. The kind of suffering you choose when you follow Jesus (see Philippians 2: 5-8).
- 3) **Our relationship with Jesus must accommodate suffering.** Jesus paid the ultimate price, suffering immensely because of his love for us. While many of us choose to suffer for selfish reasons, it’s much more rare to suffer for others. That is the mark of a follower of Jesus.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** Reread Philippians 1:29. What is your immediate reaction to the idea of suffering for Jesus? Do you find it scary? Exciting? Why do you think that is?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** Paul asks us to be more than fans of Jesus. We must be followers of Him, which means preparing ourselves to suffer. Are you ready to suffer for others?
- 3) **DO & PRAY** Our church is stretching itself as we move to a new location. We have to support this time of expansion in three areas: prayer; invitations; and service.
  - a. **Pray** for 4 minutes each day, choosing a specific time and location. Specifically, devote 1 minute of prayer to each of NBCC’s vision pillars.
    - i. Reach people who feel far from God. Help NBCC spread the news of the extravagant love of Jesus.
    - ii. Make disciples. Help NBCC build new Life Groups and attract others to Jesus.
    - iii. Build families. Help NBCC expand opportunities for fellowship with other church members.
    - iv. Transform communities. Help NBCC make an impact beyond the four walls of the building.
  - b. **Invite** people you know who aren’t connected to the church. Even if you invited them before, courageously seize the opportunity to bring them into the fold!
    - i. Choose 7 people to join us for one of the services in our new building, which begin on August 6th.
  - c. **Serve** the church community. There are so many ways to support each other: teaching; singing; ushering; parking; prayer teams; writing sermon notes; and much more!