

Hurt So Good

2025-10-12 • AARON BREWER



John 16:33

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Paul had the resume everyone in his world wanted: the right family, the right training, the right zeal. In Philippians 3 he adds it up and calls it loss. Garbage, even. What he wants instead comes as a package deal: knowing Christ, the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings. You do not get to pick just the power. Aaron Brewer held up a battered hundred dollar bill to make the other point. Crumpled or clean, it is still worth a hundred dollars, because its worth comes from the image printed on it. So does yours.

To get started

- What is something you were once proud of that matters less to you now?

Looking back at the message

The bundled nature of verse 10 is the hard part. Do not soften it.

- 1 Aaron said we all want the power of the resurrection without the fellowship of the suffering, and Paul asks for both. What is your honest reaction to that?
- 2 Aaron held up a crumpled hundred dollar bill and pointed out it is still worth a hundred dollars, because the image on it sets its worth. What did that picture do for you?
- 3 Aaron said pain with a purpose is still pain. Why does it matter that somebody says that out loud in church? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Philippians 3:7-11 aloud. Verse 10 has three parts.

- 4 Read Philippians 3:7-8. What does Paul list from his old life, and what does he call all of it now?
- 5 Look at verse 10. Paul names three things he wants to know. What are they, and why do you think they come as a package?
- 6 Verse 11 includes the word somehow. What does that little word tell you about how Paul held his own future?
- 7 Read John 16:33. Jesus makes two promises in one sentence. What are they, and how do they fit together? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Some people here are in real pain. Do not explain their suffering for them.

- 8 Paul counted his best achievements as loss. Is there anything you once counted as gain that you would count as loss now?
- 9 Aaron said your worth was set before anything ever happened to you. What voice in your head competes with that?
- 10 There is a difference between saying suffering has a purpose and saying suffering is good. Why is that difference worth protecting?
- 11 Is there something you have been through that you quietly assume disqualifies you from being used by God? OPTIONAL

The group together

Fellowship of sufferings is a group phrase, not a private one.

- 12 Paul calls it the fellowship of suffering. What does that word fellowship tell you suffering was never meant to be?
- 13 How can this group sit with someone in pain without rushing to fix it?
- 14 Who in this group is carrying something heavy right now that the rest of us could help carry?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What have you been treating as evidence that you are worth less, and what would it mean to stop?

You might pray about

- For those in pain that has no visible purpose yet
- For a worth that does not move with circumstances
- For courage to want to know Christ on his terms
- For company in the hard parts rather than isolation