

How To Take A Hit

Week 3 – November 15, 2020

Scripture: John 16:33, Exodus 34:6, Deuteronomy 7:9, Psalm 89:8, 1 Corinthians 1:9, Genesis 50:20, Romans 8:27-28

Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Look up the verses below and share your thoughts. It's that easy!

Share: Have you ever taken a really unexpected physical hit?

Read John 16:33, Exodus 34:6, Deuteronomy 7:9, Psalm 89:8, 1 Corinthians 1:9, Genesis 50:20, and Romans 8:27-28 together: Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

Discuss the following context:

In the first week of the series we did some self-examination, and last week we learned that God is with us in our deepest pits and our darkest pains. Many of the “hits” in Joseph’s story were completely undeserved and unexpected, sucker punches if you will. How did Joseph endure these hits that came out of nowhere? And is it possible for us?

Share your thoughts about following questions:

1. If God is with us, hard things shouldn’t happen to us. Do you agree or disagree?
2. Read the words of Jesus in John 16:33. What statement does Jesus make about our worldly experience? What does He promise about Himself?
3. The ability to endure the hardships of life begins with believing something *bigger* and more *powerful* than the pain of the hit. We need to have an understanding of God that doesn’t only make sense of Him when life is good.
 - a. Review the following verses pertaining to God’s faithfulness:
 - i. Exodus 34:6
 - ii. Deuteronomy 7:9
 - iii. Psalm 89:8
 - iv. 1 Corinthians 1:9
 - b. Sometimes God’s best for us happens at the same time life feels like it’s against us. Have you experienced God’s faithfulness in the midst of suffering or pain? Is there anything even from the last six months that stands out to you?
4. Reread Genesis 50:20. We live life moving forward but we understand it by looking back. When you look back, can you point to a moment/event/circumstance/relationship where harm was intended, but God used it to accomplish a good purpose?
5. Now reread Romans 8:27-28. Notice the promises from God. Which feels most significant to you in this season, and why?

Pray together: Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Confess the times or moments when we do not trust God and his faithfulness. Take some time to surrender your pain to the Lord. Thank God for His presence with you. Ask Him to reveal His presence so that it brings you peace, comfort, and joy in the midst of your pain.