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# TALK IT OVER

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## Where Is God When It Hurts?

How God Can Use My Pain For My Good

Rick Warren

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Open your group in prayer, and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the message notes, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions towards the end of the document.

## Message Notes

### How Can God Use My Pain For Good?

1. God uses pain to guide and direct me
2. God uses pain to goad and correct me
3. God uses pain to gauge and inspect me
4. God uses pain to guard and protect me
5. God uses pain to grow and perfect me

**Question 1** Pastor Rick described pain as a warning light that something is wrong. Share an experience where God used pain to guide or direct you.

### Talk It Over

*“Let God train you, for he is doing what any loving father does for his children. Whoever heard of a son who was never corrected?”* Hebrews 12:7 (TLB)

**Question 2** Sometimes we think our pain is because God is punishing us, when he is really correcting us in love. What is the difference between punishment and correction as depicted in Hebrews 12:7? Share a time when God corrected you. How did you change for the better?

**Question 3** Since God can use affliction to gauge and inspect us, how can pain become a stepping-stone to a richer relationship, situation, or circumstance?

**Question 4** Explain a situation where God has used pain to guard and protect you. Did you know it at the time, or was it revealed in looking back?

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*“If you are suffering according to God’s will, keep on doing what is right and trust yourself to the God who made you, for he will never fail you.” 1 Peter 4:19 (TLB)*

**Question 5** When we are in pain, what does 1 Peter 4:19 encourage us to do? What kind of comfort does this scripture give you?

**Question 6** Why don’t we learn from good times? Name some reasons why it takes painful experiences to grow us.

**Question 7** Describe a time when you tried to shorten the process of a painful experience on your own. How did God’s intervention help you through the process?

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*“Has all your painful experience brought you nowhere?” Galatians 3:4 (PHILLIPS)*

**Question 8** Think about Galatians 3:4. Where are you wasting your pain? How can you change that?

## **Three Essential Questions**

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message!

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you’ve learned today?*

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