

**Ew. Choosing Jesus in the Mess**  
*Recycling Pain: The Sharing Choice*

**Memory Verse: Matthew 5:10 - “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” ESV**

**“My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” - 2 Corinthians 12:9a**

**Why does a loving God allow pain and suffering?**

**1. God gave us free will.** *Genesis 3; Romans 1:21-25; Romans 3:9*

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**2. God uses pain to alert us of problems.**

*1 Peter 4:1; Jonah 2:7; 2 Corinthians 7:8-9a*

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**3. God allows pain to teach us dependence on Him.**

*2 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Peter 4:19; Hebrews 4:15-16*

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**4. God reveals the limited nature of pain in light of the unlimited nature of His glory.** *Revelation 21:4; Romans 8:18; Rev. 7:15-17*

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**5. God redeems our pain to give us a ministry to others.**

*Genesis 50:20; 2 Corinthians 1:4, Romans 12:15*

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*The quickest way for anyone to reach the sun and the light of day is not to run west, chasing after the setting sun, but to head east, plunging into the darkness until one comes to the sunrise. - **Gerald L. Sittser***

**How should we use our pain to help others?**

**Share your story** *1 Peter 3:15-18*

**Your pain must no longer be your prison but your platform.**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How did you feel throughout Sean’s message? Did it stir up feelings or memories you did not expect? If so, bring those thoughts and feelings to your heavenly father and ask him to illuminate what he wants you to do with them!
2. Can you recall an example from your own life or someone else’s where God used pain to draw attention to a problem or teach about dependence on Him?
3. Are there people that you know who are walking through a painful season that is similar to one that you have been through? Do you think that’s an opportunity to minister to others?
4. What pain in your life is a platform for reaching others for Christ?