



**the 3:10 discipleship course**  
*to know the person, the power & the passion of Jesus Christ*

# **THE 3:10 DISCIPLESHIP COURSE**



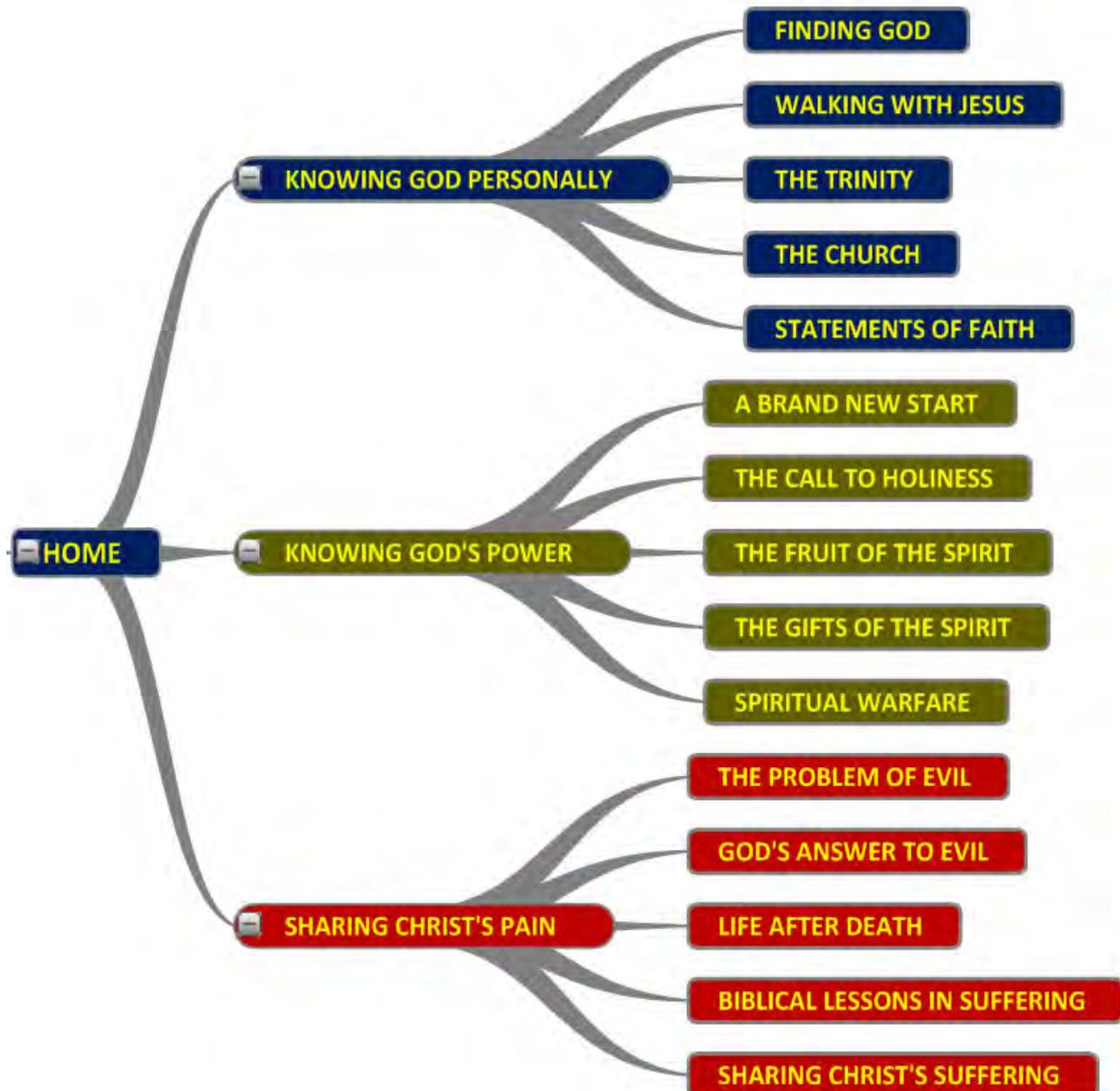
## **LEADER'S GUIDE**

### **Level 3: Sharing Christ's Passion**

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## Outline of The 3:10 Discipleship Course

Below is a site map of The 3:10 Discipleship Course outlining the main units and topics.





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**SHARING CHRIST'S PASSION**

**Week 1: THE PROBLEM OF EVIL: Why Bad Things Happen To Good People**

**AIMS:** *Be able to outline the prevailing postmodern, rational, scientific worldview which denies the reality of absolute good & evil in favour of moral relativism and evolutionary anti-supernaturalism; recognise evil as being a problem especially for those who believe in God; state the classic formulation of the problem of evil for Christians in terms of God's love & his power; summarise the biblical view of the origins of evil, the results of the Fall and four reasons why bad things happen to good people; recognise that God has answered the challenge to his love & power through the death & resurrection of Jesus Christ; state that Jesus came to bring in the kingdom-rule of God on earth & destroy the work of the devil; realise that although Christ won the victory over sin, death & satan at the Cross, we live between his 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming - between the inauguration of the kingdom-rule of God and its consummation when Christ returns in glory.*

**COURSE UNIT: SHARING CHRIST'S PASSION: The Problem of Evil**

**MAIN POINTS:**

1. **The postmodern view**, based on a rational, scientific, atheistic, anti-supernaturalist worldview, sees **good & evil as moral relatives, not absolutes, which presume the existence of a moral lawgiver - God.**
2. **The fact however is that real evil exists** and is experienced by millions throughout the world.
3. **The reality of evil is a problem especially for those who believe in a loving, all-powerful Creator God.**  
This is seen in the **classic statement of the problem** of evil as -
  - a. *If God is good and loving, why does he allow evil and suffering to prevail?*
  - b. *If God is all powerful, why doesn't he deal with evil and suffering?*
4. **The Bible answers this challenge in two ways -**
  - a. It says that **we need to recognize we don't have all the facts and that God's ways are not our ways.** ISAIAH 55:8-9
  - b. It also states that **God has already demonstrated his love & his power by sending his Son Jesus Christ into a world of sin, death & suffering to deal with evil and bring in God's kingdom-rule on earth.**
5. **The origins of evil and suffering are described in the Bible in ISAIAH 14 and EZEKIEL Chapter 28 and in GENESIS Chapter 3.** These passages show **rebellion by satan and a third of the angels in heaven followed by satan's successful temptation of human beings to rebel on earth**, where he and his rebel forces had been banished.
6. **Three things resulted from Adam & Eve's disobedience -**
  - a. **Sin** in terms of human rebellion against God
  - b. **Suffering** both physical pain and emotional anguish
  - c. **Separation from God** through physical and spiritual death.
7. **The Bible gives four reasons why bad things happen to good people -**
  - a. The result of living in a fallen world dominated by sin, death & satan as a result of Adam & Eve's rebellion
  - b. The result of other people's sin against us
  - c. The result of my sin against God's laws and suffering the consequences
  - d. The result of enemy activity by satan and his evil forces.
8. **Jesus' death on the Cross for our sin and resurrection in the power of the Holy Spirit dealt with all three consequences of the Fall** by paying for our sin, healing us of sickness & sorrow and reuniting us with God.
9. **The problem is that we live between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ -** between The Inauguration of the Kingdom-rule of God and its Final Consummation when Christ returns in glory. Oscar Cullmann described this as being like living between D-Day and VE (Victory in Europe) Day in World War II. The war was won in Normandy but millions still died before the enemy was finally defeated once and for all.

**MEMORY VERSES:**

**1 JOHN 3:8b** *The reason the Son of God came into the world was to destroy the works of the evil one.*

**JOHN 3:16-18** *God loved the world so much he sent his only Son into the world so that everyone who puts his/her trust in him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

**COLOSSIANS 3:15** *At the Cross (Christ) disarmed, disgraced and defeated all the power of the enemy.*



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**SHARING CHRIST'S PASSION**

**WEEK 2: GOD'S ANSWER TO EVIL: The Cross of Christ**

**AIMS:** *Be able to describe three ways Jesus' death on the Cross at Calvary has answered the problem of evil; understand that Jesus' death was not an accident but part of God's plan of redemption prophesied in the Old Testament; explain the meaning of Christ's death in terms of taking my place, taking my pain & taking my punishment for sin so we can know salvation, healing & deliverance from all the power of the enemy; appreciate the mystery of the Cross as God's power shown in weakness and God's wisdom shown in the apparent foolishness of the Cross; understand the principle that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness; be able to describe ten benefits of Jesus' death on the Cross for me personally; recognize the various ways in which people try to deny the Cross as the only way to eternal life; describe what Jesus' death on the Cross means to me personally and the difference it has made to me.*

**COURSE CONTENT: SHARING CHRIST'S PASSION: The Cross as God's Answer to Evil**

**MAIN POINTS:**

1. **Jesus' death and resurrection are the hinge of history** – the pivotal point in all of time because they reverse the three disastrous consequences of Adam & Eve's rebellion against God in the Garden of Eden.
2. **a. Instead of sin and guilt, the Cross provides forgiveness and cleansing** from the guilt of sin.  
**b. Instead of physical suffering and emotional sorrow, the Cross provides healing and wholeness**  
**c. Instead of separation from God the Cross provides a way back to God and eternal life** with God in heaven.
3. **Jesus' death on the Cross was not an accident. It had been prophesied in the Old Testament** as part of God's plan of salvation/redemption eg in PSALM 22 and ISAIAH 53.
4. **PSALM 22 is a remarkable prophetic description of what Jesus experienced when he was crucified at Calvary.** It was written by David about 1000 years before Christ was born and before crucifixion was known as a form of execution in Israel. Matthew quotes from this Psalm to show how Christ's death was a direct fulfilment of this prophecy (MATTHEW 27:32-50),
5. **At the Cross Jesus took our place, our pain & our punishment** - the righteous, sinless Lamb of God in place of sinners. In doing so he redeemed us from bondage to satan and made atonement with God so we could be reunited/reconciled to God.
6. **The Bible states that without the shedding of blood (animal in OT; Jesus' in NT) there is no forgiveness.** Jesus' blood has bought ten benefits for us as Christians: forgiveness of sins & cleansing from guilt; redemption/freedom from bondage to satan; atonement for sin & acquittal from God's condemnation; sanctification; reconciliation to God; access into God's presence; victory over death & eternal life with Christ; victory over satan and all his minions.
7. The only way to heaven is through faith in Christ's blood shed for sinners - via the Cross. Paul preached the Cross - nothing more, nothing less and nothing else as the basis of our hope as Christians of eternal life.

**MEMORY VERSES:**

**HEBREWS 9:22** *The Law requires everything to be cleansed with blood. In fact without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*

**ROMANS 8:1-2** *There is no longer any condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

**ROMANS 5:6, 8-9** *At just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. God demonstrates his own love for us by the fact it was while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Christ!*

**COLOSSIANS 1:20** *It was God's plan to reconcile everything to himself by making peace through Christ's blood shed on the Cross.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:21** *Christ became sin in our place so that in Christ we might become righteous in God's eyes.*

**HEBREWS 10:19** *Therefore since we have confidence to enter the Holy of Holies by the Blood of Jesus, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.*



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**SHARING CHRIST'S PASSION**

**WEEK 3**

**SPIRITUAL WARFARE AT THE PERSONAL LEVEL**

**AIMS:**

*Be aware of the reality of the spiritual battle and the fact we live in a spiritual warzone involving three main enemies – a. the fleshly nature; b. the world's view; c. the devil and his demonic spirits; know that the warfare, warriors & weapons are supernatural (2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5) and require the supernatural resources of the Holy Spirit as we submit to God & resist the enemy; know how to use the weapons God has provided (EPHESIANS 6:10-18) to crucify the flesh, be transformed by the renewing of our minds, and resist the devil in the power of the Spirit; know what is meant by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life and how to combat each of these; realise that Jesus won the victory over satan in the desert and then finally at Calvary – we are called to enforce that victory in our daily lives; be able to put on the whole armour of God in prayer.*

**COURSE UNIT: KNOW GOD'S POWER: Spiritual Warfare**

**MAIN POINTS:**

- 1. Every born again Christian soon discovers s/he is living in a spiritual warzone and involved in a battle between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of satan.**
- 2. Three main enemies** of our Christian walk are the flesh, the world and the devil -
  - a. The flesh** - the fleshly lusts or physical appetites eg food, water, sex
  - b. The soulish nature** which proudly sets itself up against God and wants to go the world's way
  - c. The enemy consisting of satan, dark angels and demonic spirits** who seek to keep Christians in bondage through sin
- 3. Paul warns us that the war, the warriors and the weapons are supernatural**, not natural (2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5) and **we cannot win spiritual battles using fleshly, natural resources.**
4. Instead **God has provided us with spiritual armour & weapons** capable of demolishing enemy strongholds (EPHESIANS 6:10-18).
- 5. To win spiritual battles we need to actively submit to God, seeking the empowering of the Holy Spirit, and actively resist the enemy using the weapons God has provided** – the Word of God anointed by the Spirit, prayer & fasting, praise & worship.
- 6. The warfare involves**
  - a. Crucifying the flesh and its lusts**
  - b. Being transformed by the Holy Spirit** renewing our minds with the truth of God's Word in place of the world's ideas & pride
  - c. Submitting to God and enforcing the victory Christ won at Calvary** by resisting the enemy in the power of the Holy Spirit

**MEMORY VERSES:**

**1 JOHN 3:8** *The Son of God appeared to destroy the works of the devil.*

**1 JOHN 2:16** *Everything in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life - is not from God the Father but is from the world.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5** *Though we walk around in our physical bodies, our warfare is not physical. Our weapons are not natural but supernatural with divine power to demolish enemy strongholds. We destroy human speculations & every haughty idea that seeks to prevent us from knowing God, and we take every thought captive to Christ by obedience to him.*

**EPHESIANS 6:10-18** *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. So put on the whole armour of God so you can remain standing in the day of battle.*



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## 03 SHARING CHRIST'S PASSION

### WEEK 4 SPIRITUAL WARFARE AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

**AIMS:** *Be aware of the three levels of spiritual warfare and of Jesus' victory over satan at all three levels in the desert and at the Cross; be aware of the kinds of enemy activity at the global, national and local level and the kinds of strategies at each level; plan and conduct a local survey to identify enemy strongholds in the local community; identify strategies for waging spiritual warfare against these in terms of prayer walking, intercessory prayer and practical action to confront enemy activity in the power of the Holy Spirit; describe ways in which those engaged in spiritual warfare may come under attack and how to combat such attacks. Remember ultimately the battle is not ours but the Lord's.*

**COURSE UNIT:** KNOW GOD'S POWER: Spiritual Warfare

#### MAIN POINTS:

1. Spiritual warfare is experienced at *both personal and* local, national and global levels.
2. At his encounter in the desert Jesus defeated satan at the *physical, world system & demonic/supernatural level*.
3. At the Cross Jesus defeated satan and all the powers of hell for all time but the final victory is yet to be enforced.
4. As Christians we will find ourselves involved in spiritual warfare in our local communities as well as at the national and sometimes the global level.
5. Strategies for waging warfare at the local community level include surveying the local community to identify enemy strongholds, using questionnaires, research in local libraries about the history of the place, and mapping.
6. The purpose of research is to identify the physical, systemic and demonic strongholds the enemy has established.
7. These include -
  - a. *Physical strongholds* eg alcoholism; drug addiction & activity; violent crime & gang activity; environmental
  - b. *Systemic strongholds* eg local byelaws, unrighteous practices & institutional ungodliness
  - c. *Demonic strongholds & centres of occult activity* eg Freemasonry, witchcraft, tarot readings, psychic fairs
8. Mapping the results of questionnaires and historical research will produce a picture of enemy activity as a basis for targeted warfare prayer and action
9. Prayer walking and warfare praying guided by the Holy Spirit will produce practical strategies for action at the physical, systemic and supernatural levels eg Petitions & campaigns against alcoholism & drugs; lobbying of local counsellors & MSPs; intercessory warfare praying against specific strongholds as led by the Spirit.
10. The key is to recognize that our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (EPHESIANS 6:12) and this requires supernatural strategies and weapons. Among these are intercessory warfare prayer; fasting; praise & worship; the Sword of the Spirit / The *rhema* Word of God anointed by the Holy Spirit and spoken into specific situations.
11. Recognize the importance of repentance for communal as well as personal sin in the battle against the enemy to remove any legal authority that may have been given him in the past eg Masonic dedication of public buildings.
12. Recognize that ultimately the battle is God's, not ours; we are simply foot soldiers of the King of kings

#### MEMORY VERSES:

**1 JOHN 3:8** *The Son of God appeared to destroy the works of the devil.*

**MATTHEW 4:1-10** *Jesus' temptations and victory over satan in the desert*

**JOHN 19:30** *It is finished! Mission accomplished!*

**2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5** *Though we walk around in our physical bodies, our warfare is not physical. Our weapons are not natural but supernatural with divine power to demolish enemy strongholds.*

**EPHESIANS 6:10-18** *Our struggle is not against flesh & blood, but against the rulers, the authorities, the powers of this dark world & against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. So put on the whole armour of God so you can stand in the day of battle.*

**2 CHRONICLES 20:15** *Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.*

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**SHARING CHRIST'S PASSION**

**WEEK 5:**

**CHRISTIAN SUFFERING & GRIEF**

**AIMS:**

*Appreciate that Christians are not immune from the suffering & grief that are a normal part of living in a fallen creation and understand four main sources of evil & suffering; recognize that grief at loss through accidents, death, divorce, disability or injustice has certain universal features as well as being unique to each individual; describe five common stages & features of grieving one's own mortality or the loss of a loved person, possession, position or potential; explain what Paul meant when he said Christians should not grieve like the rest of the world; list some of the lessons to be learned from biblical examples of people who suffered; describe what is meant by healthy grief and ways of coping with suffering as Christians; in the episode on the Road to Emmaus, we see Jesus showing us how to get alongside people who are suffering loss and helping them to cope; the Christian hope of heaven means the ultimate end of all suffering & sorrow.*

**COURSE UNITS:**

**SHARING CHRIST'S PASSION: Sharing Christ's Suffering; Biblical Lesson in Suffering; and LIFE AFTER DEATH**

**MAIN POINTS:**

1. Christians are not immune from the results of living in a world affected by the results of The Fall. Suffering is therefore a normal part of the lives of all human beings.
2. In *The Origins of Evil & Suffering* studied in Week 1 we saw that suffering is:
  - a. The result of living in a fallen creation
  - b. The result of others' sin against us
  - c. The results of my sin against God's laws and other people
  - d. The result of satanic/demonic activity
3. Grief is a normal reaction to loss of a loved person, possession, position or potential.
4. Studies of the way people react to loss have shown a pattern of five common stages or features of grief -
  - a. Denial - when the loss is denied and there is a feeling of unreality
  - b. Anger - at the person(s) responsible for the grief, those closest to the grieving person and even at God
  - c. Bargaining - an attempt to regain what is lost through bargaining or "If only...."
  - d. Depression - where the reality of the loss sinks in and a whole gamut of emotion is experienced
  - e. Acceptance - when the grieving person begins to accept the loss and realise there is life after death/loss
5. Paul says in 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-14 that Christians ought not to grieve like the rest of the world that has no hope of resurrection. This has been misinterpreted by some as meaning Christians should not grieve, which is patently wrong since Jesus himself grieved the death of Lazarus and the fate of Jerusalem.
6. Studying the lives of Job, Joseph, Jesus, Paul, Peter and James shows us how we may cope with grief in a healthy and godly way without minimising the pain involved.
7. Paul also says in ROMANS 8:28 that God can make all things, even suffering, work together for good for those who love him and are called according to his purposes. Examples of this are to be seen in the lives of individuals like Joni Eareckson Tada, Jim Elliot and countless other Christians down the centuries.
8. In LUKE 24: 13-35 we see Jesus getting alongside two disciples who are suffering and helping them to cope.
9. The ultimate answer to suffering is to be seen in the biblical promise of eternal life in REVELATION 21:1-4

**MEMORY VERSES:**

**1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-14** *Don't grieve like the rest of the world that has no hope of resurrection.*

**ROMANS 8:28** *God is able to make all things work together for good for those who love him*

**REVELATION 21:4** *There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain*



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**SHARING CHRIST'S PASSION**

**WEEK 6: SHARING CHRIST'S SUFFERING: Ministering to the hurting & vulnerable in society**

**AIMS:** *Appreciate that Jesus came to proclaim the arrival of God's kingdom-rule in person & commissioned his disciples to share his love & compassion with the lost, the hurting & those in bondages of various kinds; realize God uses wounded healers in a love cycle of ministry; look at examples of how God has ministered his love through Christian missions over the centuries; explore ways God may be calling each of us to share in this ministry of compassion to the hurting & vulnerable in our local community and further afield*

**COURSE UNITS:** **SHARING CHRIST'S PASSION: Sharing Christ's Suffering**

**MAIN POINTS:**

1. Realize that God saves us not just for our own benefit but for works he has prepared for us before we were saved.
2. He uses wounded healers in a cycle described by Paul in 2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9 to take his love to the lost & hurting.
3. Jesus' commission to the disciples was to proclaim the good news of God's kingdom-rule, to heal the sick, comfort the bereaved, & set those in bondage of various kinds free as he had done in his earthly ministry (LUKE 4:18-19; 9:1-3; 10)
4. The history of Christian missions shows how God has used wounded healers to bring his love to those who are suffering in all sorts of ways.
5. An opportunity will be given to look at various examples of ways in which Christians are reaching out with the love of Christ eg Bereavement support groups; Bible clubs in schools; Healing rooms; Helping hands for those with disabilities; Hospital visiting; Out of school clubs for kids; Senior citizens lunch club; Sports club for youngsters
6. The challenge for each of us is to listen to what God may be saying about sharing Christ's love with those suffering in various ways in our local community or further afield eg the sick; the disabled; the dying; those bereaved by death, accident, broken relationships or unemployment; the disabled; victims of crime & injustice; those in prison or in bondages of various kinds.

**MEMORY VERSES:**

**LUKE 4:18-19** *The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, and proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.*

**LUKE 9:1-2** *Jesus called the Twelve together, and gave them power & authority to drive out all demons [...], to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

**EPHESIANS 2:8-10** *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared before-hand for us to do.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4** *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.*



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**SHARING CHRIST'S PASSION**

**WEEK 7: CHRISTIAN MISSIONS TO THE HURTING: The Key Is Christ's Compassion**

**AIMS:** *An examination of the way Christians motivated by the love & compassion of Christ have taken God's love to the hurting in different parts of the world*

**COURSE UNIT: SHARING CHRIST'S PASSION: Sharing Christ's Suffering – The History of Christian Missions**

**MAIN POINTS:**

1. The aim is to explore the way(s) God calls individuals and groups of Christians to reach out with his love to the hurting based on the love cycle of mission outlined by Paul in 2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9.
2. The history of one or two Christian missionary organisations will be examined to see:
  - a. Who God gave a vision to
  - b. The process by which this vision was realised
  - c. The development of the organisation and its effectiveness over the years

For example: The history and development of

- **Overseas Missionary Fellowship** from God's call to Hudson Taylor and the start of the China Inland Mission Use might be made of the DVDs *140 years of OMF/CIM* ; *Breakthrough: The Story of James O. Fraser*; or *Contagious Mission in East Asia* to the Chinese Church today
- **Teen Challenge** from God's call to David Wilkerson in 1958 using *The Cross & The Switchblade* and Teen Challenge's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration materials to set the captives free from drug addiction worldwide
- **Prison fellowship Ministries** from Chuck Colson's conversion, imprisonment and release to a worldwide ministry to prisoners today

3. The purpose is to identify -
  - a. How God calls a person to share his love with others
  - b. The process by which the vision is fulfilled, including the tests and setbacks along the way
  - c. The cost of commitment to follow Christ's call to mission
  - d. The results / the harvest of righteousness reaped through obedience

**MEMORY VERSES:**

**MATTHEW 28:19-20** *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:24** *For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.*

**ACTS 22:10** *'What shall I do, Lord?' I asked (says Paul). "'Get up,' the Lord said, 'and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.'*

**2 CORINTHIANS 1:5-6** *For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer.*



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## SHARING CHRIST'S COMPASSION

### Week 8: IDENTIFYING WITH THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

**AIMS:** *To realise the extent of persecution being suffered by brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world eg from maps provided by organisations such as Release International; describe the various forms of persecution suffered by Christians throughout history; describe how the Great Commission led almost immediately to persecution as Jesus had warned; outline the history of persecution of the Church of Jesus Christ down the centuries and today; list four ways individuals and fellowships can support their persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ; be aware of Christ's warning of increasing persecution as the time of his return approaches, especially from the New Age and the drive towards One World Religion representing the Apostate Church of the End Times; develop ways of strengthening individuals and fellowships to discern the signs of the times and strategies for withstanding persecution.*

### COURSE UNIT: SHARING CHRIST'S PAIN: From Witnesses To Martyrs

#### MAIN POINTS:

1. Before his ascension Jesus warned his disciples they would be hunted down and persecuted for faith in him, but they should not be worried because he would provide the resources they would need to be his witnesses.
2. The Greek word for *witness* is *martyr*, from which we get the English word **martyr**. So witnessing for Christ has been associated with persecution from Pentecost onwards.
3. Persecution of Christians has taken various forms down the centuries:
  - a. Persecution by Jewish believers of early converts to Christianity, which they saw as a perversion of Judaism
  - b. State-organised persecution by Roman authorities for refusal to take part in idolatry and emperor worship
  - c. Persecution of Christians by other faiths eg Islam; Hinduism; Shintoism
  - d. Persecution of Christians by other Christians eg Roman Catholics, Protestants, Anabaptists; Hugenots;
  - e. Persecution by atheist regimes eg The French Revolution; Nazis; Communism; Maoism
4. A particular problem has been persecution of one Christian group by another - for example, the Spanish Inquisition; the persecution of Roman Catholics in Britain by Protestants; and the persecution of groups such as Anabaptists, Hugenots and Non-Conformists by the established Churches.
5. Tertullian wrote: *"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church."* This statements has been borne out over the centuries as the Church has grown and multiplied especially in times of persecution, from the time the Jerusalem Church was scattered and took the gospel to Samaria and other parts of the Roman Empire.
6. Modern examples of this are to be seen in the growth of the Church under Communist repression in the USSR and especially in Maoist China.
7. A number of Christian organisations such as Barnabas Fund, Open Doors and Release International provide information and support for the persecuted Church worldwide. They also provide information on how to help through prayer, financial support and practical involvement.

#### MEMORY VERSES:

**ACTS 1:8** You will be my witnesses (*martyrs*) in Judaea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

**JOHN 15:20** No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.

**2 TIMOTHY 3:12** Everyone who seeks to live a godly life will be persecuted.



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### SHARING CHRIST'S COMPASSION

#### WEEK 9

#### WHY ME, LORD? Why Bad Things Happen To Good people

#### AIMS:

*To realise that Christians are not immune from the problems of living in a fallen world; be able to describe the biblical view on the origins of suffering in terms of (a) Natural evil, (b) Moral evil, and (c) Satanic evil; describe the kinds of suffering endured by Job, Joseph, Jesus, Paul and Peter and the lessons we can learn from the way they responded to suffering of different kinds; to identify the resources we have as Christians for facing suffering and the ways our behaviour can be a witness to the world around us; to describe the way is able to turn tragedies into triumphs of his grace and make all things work together for good for those who love him and are called according to his purposes, using examples of Christians like Amy Carmichael; Joni Eareckson Tada and others; to develop personal and group strategies for facing suffering*

#### COURSE UNIT: SHARING CHRIST'S PAIN: Sharing Christ's Sufferings

#### MAIN POINTS:

1. Christians are not immune from the suffering faced by all who live in a fallen world. Jesus warned us that we would face trouble but that he would take us through it.
2. The Bible attributes suffering to The Fall of Man and the resulting evil and suffering of three kinds:
  - a. *Natural evil* eg earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, diseases; genetic disorders; death and suffering
  - b. *Moral evil* i. as a result of others' sin against me ii. As a result of my own sin eg murder; addiction; wars
  - c. *Satanic evil* resulting from the direct action of "the ruler of this world" and his forces eg occult bondage; ritual abuse
3. The Bible gives us a graphic picture of the kinds of human evil and the suffering it causes, as well as wrestling with the problems of natural and satanic evil in the lives of God's children.
4. The lives of Job, Joseph, Jesus, Paul and Peter provide us with valuable lessons on the resources we have as Christians and how to face the challenge of different kinds of suffering.
5. The good news of the Gospel is that "*Our God reigns!*", not satan. The Cross and resurrection demonstrate that and also the fact God can turn a human tragedy into a triumph of his grace if we will let him.
6. Classic examples of this include the conversion of whole tribes and groups as a result of the martyrdom of missionaries such as Jim Elliot and others in Ecuador, or the international ministry of encouragement of Joni Eareckson Tada in spite of being paralysed from the neck down at the age of 16.
7. God will *either* take us **out** of the suffering *or* he will take us **through** it.
8. The key is to develop our personal relationship with God to the point where he can use us no matter what may happen.
9. The group's own experiences will almost certainly provide valuable examples of the truth that all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purposes (ROMANS 8:28)



## the 3:10 discipleship course

*to know the person, the power & the passion of Jesus Christ*

03

### SHARING CHRIST'S COMPASSION

WEEK 10

#### ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD

AIMS:

*To realise that God has promised to take us through anything we have to face; the key for us as Christians is to develop our relationship with God as heavenly Father and our trust in him; to look at examples of men and women of faith in the Bible and throughout history who faced suffering and hardship but experienced God's faithful provision and protection throughout; to develop strategies for deepening our personal walk with God and encourage others who are facing pain and suffering of various kinds; look at the way Jesus got alongside two disciples on the Road to Emmaus, and helped them work through their suffering to a biblical understanding of the situation; to realise that suffering will increase with the approach of the End Times and Christ's return; to develop ways of preparing for any eventuality*

**COURSE UNITS:** SHARING CHRIST'S PAIN: LIFE AFTER DEATH: Signs of the Times; and SHARING CHRIST'S SUFFERING.

**MAIN POINTS:**

1. Jesus warned us about trials and suffering, especially as we see signs of the End Times and his Second Coming. But he also told us not to be deceived by false prophets and Messiahs or be distressed at the chaos and confusion around us.
2. As we see the shaking of the things that can be shaken, we need to rejoice that we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken (**HEBREWS 12:25-29**) and develop our relationship with God so we are ready for Christ's return.
3. **ISAIAH 43:1-5** and **HEBREWS 13:5-6** contain God's promise never to fail us but to take us through whatever may happen.
4. We need to be aware of the signs of the times outlined by Jesus in **MATTHEW 24**, Paul in **2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5** and Peter in **2 PETER 3:3-13** and make sure we are not deceived by false teachers, prophets and people claiming to be the Messiah.
5. Studies of Christians who have faced suffering and death in various contexts can provide encouragement and lessons in how to face the challenges ahead.
6. Watch a DVD of Christians like David Wilkerson *The Cross & The Switchblade*, John Newton & William Wilberforce in *Amazing Grace*, James O Fraser of Lisu Land, or Jim Elliot, Nate Saint and others in *End Of The Spear* to see how God took their obedience and has proved that *all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purposes*.
7. Spend a time in prayer, praise and worship, praising God for his faithfulness and love and for the fact that Jesus is coming back to claim his own.

**MEMORY VERSES:**

**HEBREWS 12:1-3**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

**HEBREWS 13:5** God has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid."

**ISAIAH 43:1-3** This is what the LORD says—he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour."