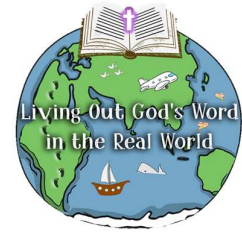


**PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH**  
*LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE*



**Sermon Date: 24/02/2019**

**Text/s: Romans 8:18-21, Revelation 21:3-4**

**Title: Why does God allow suffering in this world?**

**Preacher: Rev Lai Kai Ming**

(The sermon recording and slides are available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

**READ (5 mins)**

(Read the Bible text/s, quietly or aloud)

**REFLECT (30 mins)**

(Reflect on key themes and questions in the text/s)

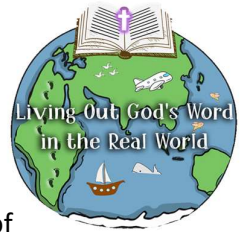
1. Revelation 21:3-4 anticipates a world where suffering and death will end. Share with each other what this passage means for you right now.
2. Consider Paul's words in Romans 8:18-21. What does this passage tell us about suffering, sufferers, this broken world, and God?
3. It was said that "while pain cannot be avoided, it can be transformed (to bring about good and even a blessing)". Give examples in your life where you have experienced this.

**Additional question:**

4. When natural disasters happen, we always feel for the "innocent victims". How do we reconcile such suffering and death with a God of Love?

*Notes from Sermon:*

- *Is there anyone who is really 'innocent'? (cf. Romans 3:23)*
- *Laws of Nature: Consistency versus Chaos*
- *Human choice and Responsibility: "Would there really be free choice if God never lets the 'innocent' become victims?"*



### **RELATE (30 mins)**

(Relate and apply God's word to our daily lives)

1. In the face of suffering, the preacher suggested 4 responses, i.e. Give thanks, Learn from it, Turn to God, and Suffer with others. Which one of these responses do you find most helpful? Which one do you find particularly difficult?
  
2. Ask God to bring to your mind someone who is suffering right now – at work, school, home, or in your neighbourhood. Share this person's name with the group.
  - What is something you can do this week to bring about good and a blessing to the sufferer?
  - Pray for these persons your group has named.

### **REST (15 mins)**

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for weekly guide)