



Pain-filled Prayer

Romans 8

(page 800 in the church Bibles)

Speaker: Tim Mackie, Teaching Pastor

Breathe Deep: Pain-filled Prayer

Romans 8

Main Idea: God's Spirit is most powerfully present in our suffering. The paradox of suffering is that our feeling of God's absence is itself the sign of the Spirit's presence.

Connecting

What is something you're hoping will happen for you in 2010?

Describe a favorite work of art and why it is meaningful to you.

Understanding

Read Romans 8:1-2, 11. What is the future hope described in these verses?

Read Romans 17-27. What words and images are used to describe the difficulties of the world in which we live? Explain why these difficulties don't compare with the glory that is coming.

Look at verses 26-27. How is the Holy Spirit present with us when we pray during times of suffering?

Read Matthew 27:46-50. What does this story of Jesus contribute to our understanding of suffering?

Living

How do you respond when someone questions why God allows suffering in our world?

When have you felt abandoned by God? How do you interpret that experience now?

Discuss the tension created when we feel that God is absent, yet we're assured of the Spirit's presence with us.

How does the big story of God's redemption give us perspective on our current problems?

Do you find it more natural to pray when your life feels easy or when it is difficult? Why?

Thank God for his presence with us during difficult times, even when we aren't aware of it. Pray for those you know who are experiencing suffering now.

Sneak Preview – New Series: **Redefined** (Gospel of Luke)

Next Sunday: *Upside Down and Inside Out* – Luke 1:46-55

Questions about Life Groups? Contact Carmen Boyd, cboyd@blackhawkchurch.org.

• Listen to and watch messages online any time at blackhawkchurch.org. Message tapes and CDs are also available in the Resource Center (202).

• Past message series are available on CD, or can be requested, at the Resource Center.