



## ***Core Seminars—Suffering for God’s Glory***

### **Class 10: Applying the Framework in a Practical Scenario**

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- What advice would you give to Jim concerning how to move beyond those barriers to faith?
- What are some Scripture passages that you would point Jim to in particular?

#### 4. How can I conduct myself so that God is glorified in my life through this difficult time?

- What are the ways in which you think God might be using this situation for his glory?
- What are the ways in which you think God might be using this situation for Jim’s good?
- In what ways would these “reasons for Jim’s suffering” be helpful to share with Jim right now?
- What are some things that Jim should be careful not to do if he seeks to use this trial to bring praise and honor to God?
- What are some things that Jim should be careful to do if he seeks to use this trial to bring praise and honor to God?

Questions? Email

*Applying a framework for your suffering*

#### **I. Introduction**

*A Basic Framework for Working Through Suffering:*

1. How does this suffering challenge my view of who God is?
2. What am I tempted to trust in other than God?
3. How can I fight for faith?
4. How can I conduct myself so that God is glorified in my life through this difficult time?

#### **II. An Interview: Applying the Framework**

1. How does this suffering challenge my view of who God is?
2. What am I tempted to trust in other than God?
3. How can I fight for faith?
4. How can I conduct myself so that God is glorified in my life through this difficult time?

### III. A Hypothetical Scenario: Applying the Framework

Twenty years ago, during his second year at the University of Maryland, Jim dropped out of school to help a friend start a window-manufacturing company out in PG County. A few years later, God used a good friend to bring Jim to faith in Christ. And a few years after that, Jim met Natalie at church and they got married, had three kids, and settled themselves into the life of their church. The window company was a moderate success, and so it's been the only job Jim's ever known.

However, it's been a really rocky year for the company. Earlier this year, one of the company's five machinists hurt himself badly while he was working. Which, as you can imagine, has devastated Jim. And as it turns out, the company was partially at fault for what happened. So as court costs and liabilities mount, the business goes under and Jim is suddenly without a job just as his kids begin hitting their teenage years. He's got no college degree, no real professional network, a mortgage to pay, a family to provide for, and only a small amount of savings. So while, from a worldly perspective, things are certainly not without hope, they're sure looking pretty bleak.

#### 1. How does this suffering challenge my view of who God is?

- What are some ways in which he may be tempted to make bad assumptions about who God is in his theology?
- Why is it important for a Christian to be thoroughly convinced that all suffering is within the control of a sovereign God?
- What kinds of attitudes or behaviors might Jim stumble into that might suggest he's having a hard time believing that God is good?

- As Christians, the truth of the cross should always be the lynchpin in our theology. In Jim's situation, what about God could only be true because of the cross?

#### 2. What am I tempted to trust in other than God?

- What are some ways in which you think Jim might be tempted to trust in something other than God?
- What are ways in which you think "false gods" might surface in Jim's life?
- What are some strategies/scripture passages that would be useful in battling these false responses to suffering?

#### 3. How can I fight for faith?

- What are some strategies that Jim should be doing to fight for faith?
- How can others help Jim fight for faith?
- What are some of the barriers that you think Jim will likely encounter as he strives to fight for faith in these ways?