



THIS IS **US**

Learning How the Church Connects as a Family

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## **This is Us**

### **We connect through Suffering**

#### **Philippians 3:10-11**

*<sup>8</sup>Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ<sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—<sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,<sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*

#### **Our Suffering:**

**The façade of happiness**

**When we suffer, we hide**

**Suffering brings too many hard questions**

#### **Christ's Suffering:**

**Suffering humanizes the incarnation and is part of the Gospel**

**The Gospel gives hope to suffering**

**Don't waste your sorrows, gain Christ, know Him**

**Fellowship through suffering:**

**When we enter each other's sufferings we come to know Christ**

**2 Corinthians 1:6**

**Ephesians 3:13**

**When we see each other's suffering, other parts of life come into perspective**

**In suffering, I see the reflection of why each of us needs and must give grace**

**Together we begin to know the power of the resurrection**

**We learn to die**

**We learn to live forever**

**We pretend. We smile. We cry in the open. We weep behind closed doors. We are in pain. We endure. We question. Sometimes we hear nothing. We draw near to God. We feel alone. We bring comfort. We are silent. We fear. We show courage. We don't understand. We sympathize. We face death. We cling to life. We despair. We hope.**

**....This is Us**