Jacob's Well Church
Knowing God, Loving People, Transforming Lives

Community Group Homework
The week of Aug. 30 – Sept. 5, 2009

Sermon: "Talking to God" 8-30-09

Getting Started:

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain?

2. Read James 1:2-5; 1 Peter 1:3-9; Romans 5:1-5; Romans 8:18-39
    a. What do these passages teach us about suffering?

    b. What are some practical ways that we can take "joy" in our suffering?

3. God and Satan have different intentions for our suffering, Satan intends to destroy your love for Christ while God intends to deepen it.
    a. How can suffering deepen our love for Christ

    b. What might prevent us from growing in our love for Christ when we suffer and how can we guard against it?

4. Suffering is designed to destroy the appetite for sin. Pride, greed, lust, hatred, unforgiveness, impatience, laziness, procrastination – all of these are adversaries that suffering is meant to attack.
    a. How can suffering destroy your appetite for sin?

    b. How does this glorify God?

Digging Deeper:

5. Read 2 Corinthians 1:9. In the midst of his suffering Paul grew in his dependence on God. What has suffering taught you about God?

6. In the midst of suffering how does Jesus remain your highest Treasure?

7. Is there anything that you need to do as a result of what you have learned this week?