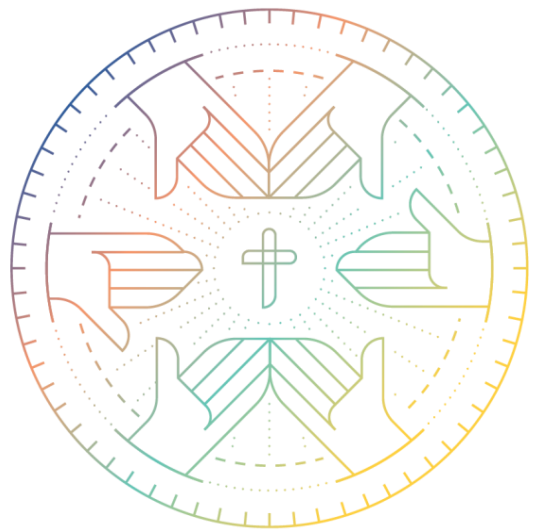


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



ICEBREAKER

What's something you've had to fix or restore (a car, a house project, a relationship, etc.)?

When have you experienced a season of suffering that changed your perspective on life or God?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

We all experience suffering—whether through pain, loss, broken relationships, or disappointment. The good news is that God is a God of restoration. In the middle of our pain, He promises not only to be near but to restore everything that sin and brokenness have affected. This week's passage points us to the promise that after suffering, God Himself will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish us.

What stood out to you from the message this week?

INTO THE WORD

Read 1 Peter 5:8–9 and James 1:14. What causes suffering in our lives according to these passages? Why do you think it's important to recognize the different sources of our suffering (the devil, our own desires, a broken world)?

Read Psalm 121 and 2 Corinthians 4:16–18. According to these verses, how does God care for us during difficult seasons? What does it mean to “lift our eyes to the hills” when we’re overwhelmed or discouraged? How can fixing our eyes on what is unseen give us hope in our suffering?

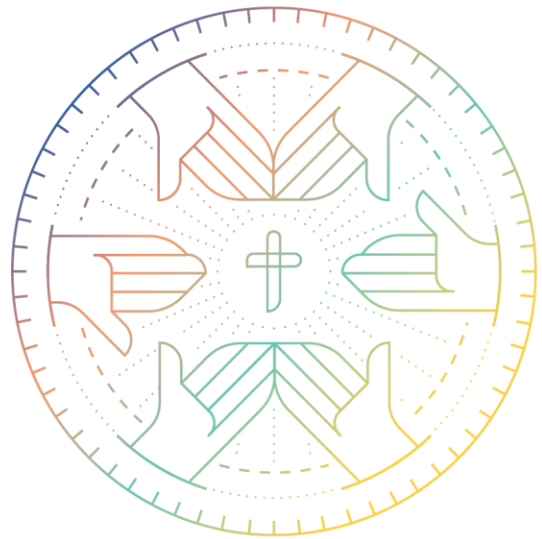
Read 1 Peter 5:10, Isaiah 40:28–31, and Revelation 21:3–4. What do you notice about God’s promise to restore in these verses? How have you seen glimpses of restoration in your own life? What does it look like to wait on the Lord with faith-filled expectation?

EMBRACE AND EMBODY

Suffering is part of the human story—but it’s not the end of the story. As we wait for full restoration, God meets us in our brokenness and uses even our pain for His purposes. Sometimes our greatest ministry comes from our greatest wounds (2 Corinthians 1:4).

Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



Ask the group to share and reflect on one of the following questions:

- Are you in a season of bitter brokenness, sad acceptance, or worshipful waiting?
- How could God use your story to bring healing to someone else?
- What's one practical way you can shift your focus from discouragement to hopeful anticipation this week?

As we reflect on today's message, consider how your own story of suffering and restoration can be a doorway to make God known by sharing the hope we have in Jesus. God can use your pain as a platform to point others to His healing. This week, ask God to give you an opportunity to share how He has been your help and restorer. When you share the gospel, focus on God's love, the brokenness caused by sin, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, and the promise of full restoration for those who trust in Him. You don't need to have all the answers—just share what Jesus has done in your life and invite someone else to know Him too.

GROUP PRAYER PRACTICE

Invite each person to write down a specific area where they long to see restoration—in their health, family, faith, emotions, or community. Then, one by one, pray aloud (or silently) offering those areas to God. End with a reading of Revelation 21:3–4 as a declaration of hope.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father God, thank You for being our Keeper and Restorer. In every valley and every dark night, remind us that You see us and walk with us. Help us trust in Your promise to restore what is broken and redeem what has been lost. Make us people who comfort others with the comfort we have received. We wait with hope for the day when all things will be made new in Your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.