



## STORIES OF HOPE AND RESTORATION

with Paul Amos and Nate Dewberry

### ▶ FOCUS VERSE

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.  
Romans 8:28

### ▶ DISCUSSION

1. **Think of a story—it can be a book, movie, play, or TV show—that’s really stuck with you and resonated with you for many years.**
  - a. What about that story has made it so memorable?
  
  - b. What is the central challenge or conflict that the main character faces, and how does he or she triumph over it?
  
  - c. What would that story lose if the conflict were something less serious or more easily overcome?
  
2. **Now think of an inspiring real-life story, an experience related to you by someone you know personally who had to overcome something significant.**
  - a. Who was it, and what did they have to go through?
  
  - b. How did hearing that story change your opinion of them?
  
  - c. Did you learn anything that you then applied to your own life?



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**3. When was the last time you confessed something sinful or shameful to another person—a minister, relative, or even a good friend?**

- a. What about that person made you feel like you could share that with them without being ostracized or abandoned?
- b. How did you feel once you had confessed that secret?

## THE FRUITS OF OUR SUFFERING

with Mike Malone

### ▶ FOCUS VERSES

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Romans 5:3-4

### ▶ DISCUSSION

**1. Did you have any experiences that “toughened” you as a child—playing sports, an injury, family problems?**

- a. How did you deal with these experiences then, and what skills or traits did you gain that still serve you well today?

**2. Take the first question and apply it to your adult life.**

- a. What’s something you experienced or endured that was painful and frustrating at the time, but now, with the benefit of hindsight, you realize made you stronger or wiser?
- b. How long did it take before you began to appreciate those blessings, and in what ways did you struggle before you reached that understanding?

**3. Would you describe yourself as the kind of person who holds a grudge?**

- a. When you do, is it typically something small that you eventually forget about, or is it something you harbor for a long time?



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**4. What's the longest you've ever been angry at someone?**

- a. Who was it, and what was the source of that anger?
- b. If you eventually forgave them, what prompted that forgiveness?
- c. If you still haven't forgiven them, what do you think is preventing you from doing so?

**5. Mike talks about his time “in the chair” receiving chemo and how he used that time to grow closer to God.**

- a. When and where do you most frequently have moments of solitude and quiet?
- b. What do you think about during those times?

**6. Mike makes several references to the “fruits” of his suffering. Think about the issues you're dealing with now and if there's anything you could gain or learn from them.**

*(See James 1:2-4.)*

- a. Is there anything God might be trying to tell you or teach you?
- b. Are there any reasons why you might be resistant to those lessons or benefits?

**7. How often do you read the Bible? *(See Joshua 1:8.)***

- a. When you do, what prompts you to pick it up and read it?
- b. What sorts of things are you looking for in scripture?
- c. How often do you find them?

