



MISSION



April Teaching Series

The Reward of Suffering

Week 1

Reflect

Take some time to process together as a group on last week's practice:

- How did you start practicing what we talked about last week?
- How was your experience in your practice?
- Where did you feel God most present and distant this week?

Overview

The Gospel is not as a story centered on us, but it's the good news of what God is doing in the world—drawing near to humanity and restoring all things. In Acts 17, we see a God who is not distant or dependent on us, but one who gives life, orders our time and place, and invites us to seek and find Him. The story of the Moravians confronts our comfort-driven faith with a radical vision of a people marked by prayer, love, and mission. Their lives embodied a deep conviction: that Jesus is worthy of the reward of His suffering. This challenges us to move beyond a private, inward spirituality and embrace a faith that exists for the sake of others.

The Kingdom of God is not about escaping earth, but about heaven invading it. God is actively working to remove the brokenness of sin and evil not only from the world, but from within us. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus confronts the “hell” we carry and invites us into transformation and mission. We are living in a divinely appointed time (*kairos*), placed exactly where we are to partner with what God is already doing in our families, neighborhoods, and city. The call is to surrender our lives, embrace even suffering, and live as people of love—so that others might encounter the nearness and goodness of God.



Reading

Acts 17:24-28 NIV

24 The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.

Discussion

What stood out to you from Acts 17 about who God is and what He's doing?

How does it change your perspective to see that God is not far from us and is actively drawing people to Himself?

In what ways can our faith become inward-focused or self-centered?

What does it practically mean to live "for the sake of others" in your current season?

Can you identify a "kairos moment" (a defining spiritual turning point) in your life?

How might God have placed you in this time and place for a purpose?

Practice

“For the Sake of the Others” Prayer Walk

Walk through your neighborhood, workplace, or daily environment

Pray:

- “God, where are You already at work?”
- “Who are You inviting me to love?”

Ask the Spirit to highlight one person

Take one simple step:

- Encourage them
- Pray for them
- Start a conversation

Closing Prayer

“Jesus, we say yes to Your mission. Form us into people of love — not just for ourselves, but for the sake of others. Open our eyes to where You are already moving. Give us courage to step into discomfort, and may our lives echo this cry: May the Lamb who was slain receive the reward of His suffering. Amen.”

Further Resources

Videos: Mission Teaching Series – Abbalove Church

Book: Red Moon Rising – Pete Greig

Book: Simply Good News – NT. Wright

Listen: Rule of Life: ‘Witness’ Podcast – Practicing the Way

An aerial photograph of a coastal wetland landscape. The scene is dominated by a complex network of water channels and marshes. The water is a muted, greyish-blue, while the marshes are a mix of brown and dark green, suggesting different vegetation and water levels. In the distance, a thin line of land separates the wetlands from a vast, flat expanse that could be a plain or a large body of water. The sky is a uniform, pale grey, indicating an overcast day. The overall mood is serene and expansive.

**How we
want to go**

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