

**Where Is God When Life Gets Tough?**  
***God's Purpose in Suffering #4—Discipline His Children***  
**First Christian Church—May 31, 2020**  
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**What have you learned about following Jesus in a Pandemic Culture?**

The most tragic outcome of living in a pandemic culture would be for all of us to return to *business as usual*.

**GOD's Story— God's Purpose in Suffering #4: Discipline His Children,  
Hebrews 12:1-13**

**What I've learned: Following Jesus in a Pandemic Culture—in America**

1. The Church has a unique identity distinct from its buildings & large group gatherings.
2. God is always at work. So are we! (John 5:17; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 4:19)
3. Suffering is a major theme in the life of God's People. But God has a purpose in it.  
(1 Peter 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:12)
  - (1) Draw Hearts to Him
  - (2) Produce Perseverance, Character, Hope & Faith in Us
  - (3) Prevent Conceit in Us
  - (4) Discipline Us
  - (5) Make Our Faith Genuine
  - (6) Comfort Us
4. We do not appreciate the central place *suffering* has in the life of a Jesus Follower.
  - ☐ Entitlement
  - ☐ Identity Crisis—Our Identity as Jesus Followers
5. The Big Question: What does the love of Jesus require of me, of us in a Pandemic Culture?

**Big Idea:** We are Followers of Jesus First! Our citizenship is in heaven, but we live out our citizenship on earth, as it is in heaven!

**Right On!**

God Disciplines His Children, Hebrews 12:1-13