



# PLANTED

Living in Bonus Time

1. What messages have you received about suffering and its place in our culture?
2. Alec Hill talked about 3 surprises in suffering: God's presence, the illusion of control, and becoming a better person. What did you think about these surprises? Would you add anything to this list from your own experience?
3. Have you ever experienced God's presence in the midst of a personal crisis? What was that like?
4. In response to William Ernest Henley's famous "Invictus", Dorothea Day wrote the poem "Conquered." How do you respond to their final lines below? What does it mean for Christ to be your Master and Captain? Both poems can be found in full here.
  - a. Invictus - "I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul."
  - b. Conquered - "Christ is the Master of my fate! Christ is the Captain of my soul!"
5. Read Romans 5:1-5. What does Paul say about suffering here? How open are you to allowing God to form you into the person He's made you to be, even if the path to holiness is hard?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. How does our hope in the eternal affect how we live today? How does your faith affect how you approach hardship?
7. Which area is God inviting you to grow in this week - attuning to His presence, letting go of control, or welcoming His work of making you holy? Or, are there people around you who are suffering and need your care, advocacy, or prayer?

## Going Deeper

In your group or on your own this week, consider a difficult experience in your life that is similar to something Jesus experienced. What is it like to imagine Him sharing your suffering?