

What is the hardest you have ever worked for something in your own life?

Read Colossians 1:24 - 2:5

What immediately stands out to you? Does anything in this passage particularly confuse you, encourage you or convict you?

Read 2 Timothy 1:7-12, 3:10-13; Philippians 3:7-11; 2 Corinthians 1:5, and 1 Peter 4:12-19.

What do these verses say about suffering?

How or what have you suffered or given up for Christ in your life?

Do you believe that all of us are called to participate in Christ's sufferings? Why or why not?

How often do you think about the reality that the Spirit of Christ is in me?

Which word would you use to best describe how you are maturing in Christ and why – intentional, sporadic, stuck, or another word of your choosing?

Paul is struggling, but it says with all of Christ's energy. When in your life have you struggled, but found Christ's energy and strength present as you did?

What images do you have when you hear the words "knit together in love"?

How do we open our lives to the tapestry Christ is designing in his church?

What are those voices in your life that try to pull you from maturity in Christ?

Do you find deception coming more from human voices, culture, your thought life, or something else? How firm are you standing in your faith at the moment?