



**CORNERSTONE**

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

GATHER · PRAY · GO

# FAMILY ALTAR

Devotional Digest  
(Week 6)

## CoViD-19

As CoViD-19 persists, it is our duty to join God in His mission even in the confines of our homes, by strengthening the family, interceding for one another, and seeing His glory through the times.

CICC's OIKOS Ministry hopes that through this weekly devotional digest, we share this post to fellow CICC-ers to read and discuss together in our homes as one body and in one Spirit.

## CICC - OIKOS



# FAMILY ALTAR

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SUFFERING in the hands of  
a WISE and LOVING GOD

The question about the existence of suffering has plagued humanity from the very start. How can a good and loving God permit adversity to strike our lives and the lives of seemingly innocent individuals?

The Bible provides answers. However, be ready to hear God's voice through some hard truths He will reveal to you.



# DAY 1

## SUFFERING - A NATURAL CONSEQUENCE

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*“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”*

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### READINGS:

Prov. 6:27-28; Luke 15:11-20; Gal. 6:7-8

### QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

1. Name some examples of suffering which are the natural consequences of certain foolish and disobedient acts.
2. Why do we think that we can deceive God by our thoughts and acts?
3. How can we guard ourselves from the natural consequences of suffering?

*PRAYER: Loving Father, folly occupies my heart and mind. I own all the consequences that befall me because of it. Your truth and wisdom are what I long for. Rid me of quick fixes so that I learn to live for a far better tomorrow. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.*



## DAY 2

# SUFFERING - GOD'S DISCIPLINE

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*“For the Lord disciplines the one He loves,  
and chastises every son whom He receives.”*

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### READINGS:

Deut. 30:15-18; 2 Chron. 7:19-22; Heb. 12:5-7

### QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

1. In the Old Testament, in what ways did Israel rebel against God, and how did God discipline them?
2. What are the results of knowingly ignoring God's teachings?
3. What forms of suffering have you experienced that were a form of discipline in your life? Would illness play a part at times?

*PRAYER: Our all-knowing King, with glad hearts, we marvel at all Your promised blessings. We receive them with open arms. In times of waywardness, O Lord, grant us Your tender mercies. We need Your strength for uprightness today. In Your name, Amen.*



# DAY 3

## SUFFERING - CHARACTER FORMATION

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*“... Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?”*

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### READINGS:

Job 2:7-13; Rom. 5:3-5

### QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

1. What kinds of suffering did Job undergo? How did he view it from God’s perspective?
2. What can we pray for people who are suffering from the CoViD-19 in terms of their character development?
3. How does suffering bring about spiritual maturity?

*PRAYER: Gracious Abba, Your forgiving love accepts me as I am. Yet Your intense love won’t settle to leave me as I am. Your strong love transforms me into what I should be. So yes, Lord, let tribulation produce fruit of character in me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*



# DAY 4

## SUFFERING - THE GLORY OF GOD

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*“(Faith) is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold-- though your faith is far more precious than mere gold.”*

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### READINGS:

John 9:1-7; 1 Pet. 1:6-7; 4:12-13

### QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

1. God’s purposes and ways are higher than ours. What should our attitude be when God’s reasons for the pandemic’s suffering are hidden from us?
2. How does the faithfulness and love of God merge with His eternal glory?
3. While suffering, have you ever prayed, “Lord, glorify Yourself”? What might happen if you do?

*PRAYER: Sovereign Lord, You place so much value on our faith that you treat it like gold that needs the fire to achieve perfect purity. May our hope for the splendor of tomorrow’s glory temper our sufferings for today. So glorify Your name. For Jesus’ sake, Amen.*



# DAY 5

## SUFFERING - RIVERS OF BLESSING

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*“...you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result...”*

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### READINGS:

Genesis 45:1-9; 2 Cor. 1:3-7

### QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

1. In what ways did God bring about blessing from Joseph's life of misery inflicted by his own family?
2. How do people, who have gone through what you are presently suffering, help you in your own suffering?
3. How can you, through your suffering, bless those who suffer during this pandemic?

*PRAYER: God, our Comforter and Friend, now I see Your glorious plan for my suffering. You are building in me a capacity and platform to serve others on the same boat. May I be Your hands and feet to bless others. In the name of Jesus, Amen.*

