



CHRISTIAN
SUPPORT
FOR
CHRONIC
ILLNESS

WORDS OF HOPE

from
HopeKeepers®Indy

Volume 1 Issue 7

July 2016

2016 UPCOMING MEETINGS

Saturdays 2-4 PM

July 9

August 13

September 10

Email us for location
in Brownsburg, IN

HopeKeepers®Indy Discussion Topics July-December Joni Eareckson Tada Publications

Joni Eareckson Tada is founder and CEO of Joni and Friends International Disability Center. A diving accident in 1967 left Joni, then 17, a quadriplegic in a wheelchair. After two years of rehab, she emerged with new skills and a fresh determination to help others in similar situations. She founded Joni and Friends® in 1979 to provide Christ-centered programs to help special needs families, as well as training to churches. Joni's testimony, art, and books have inspired millions who suffer.

* **SPECIAL GIFT:** Our discussion topics will be based on Joni's writings. A beautiful 14 page laminated pamphlet will be given to each person attending our HKI meetings.

JULY: "WHY?"

Making Sense of Suffering

AUGUST : "GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY"

God's Hand in Our Hardship

SEPTEMBER: "WHERE'S MY MIRACLE?"

Unanswered Prayers

OCTOBER: "ANGER"

Aim in the Right Direction

NOVEMBER: "INGRATITUDE"

A Thankful Heart in a World of Hurt

DECEMBER: "PRAYER"

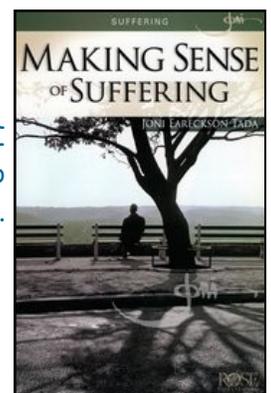
Speaking God's Language



July Topic: "WHY?"

Making Sense of Suffering

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW
SO MUCH SUFFERING?



Quotes from Joni's pamphlet:

"Somewhere after the first five years of life in my wheelchair, I noticed a change in my attitude toward hardships. I was beginning to see how my quadriplegia was working for my good and God's glory. Simply put, it meant becoming more like Christ.

- Suffering was forcing me to make decisions about following God.
- Suffering was also doing a cleanup on my character.
- Suffering was making me more sensitive to others.
- I realized that being paralyzed was making Heaven come alive.

In short, I was beginning to make sense of my suffering. Now, many years later, I am more sure than ever that when it comes to our afflictions, God's got His reasons. Good ones...Understanding the spiritual benefits behind my suffering helped answer - at least in part - that sticky question, 'Why does God allow so much hardship in my life?'

This pamphlet will help you explore the reasons God has for your hardship."

JULY SPECIAL GIFT



In the event of bad weather or change in meeting location, we will notify on Facebook, and email, text or call before the meeting.

Join us each month to receive a beautiful, inspirational 14 page laminated pamphlet by author Joni Eareckson Tada.



EMAIL

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WEBSITE

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FACEBOOK

facebook.com/hopekeepersindy

PINTEREST

pinterest.com/hopekeepersindy/

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."



Marie Miller - HKI Facilitator

Scriptures About Making Sense of Suffering

- Psalm 68:19 "Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens."
2 Cor. 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
I Peter 4:12-13 "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed."
Romans 5:3-4 "We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."
Job 23:10 "But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold."
I Peter 1:6-7 "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Christ is revealed."
Psalm 42:11 "Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God."

Notes from Marie: "Maturing Through Suffering"



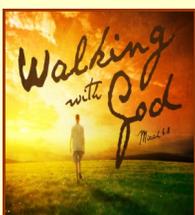
One of my favorite authors is Bodie Thoene. I love the depth of her characters, her profound spiritual insight, and the accuracy of the historical settings. Last night I began reading When Jesus Wept (The Jerusalem Chronicles Book 1). In the story, an old vine keeper named Simon commented to his master about some small vines planted on the hot rocky limestone hillside.

"These are your most faithful vines, Sir. They struggle for water every season. Set their roots deep in search of every drop. Pull flavor from the limestone and thin soil. And their clusters are filled with passion for life. Vineyards. They only crop I know where a hardship in the maturing makes the end result exquisite."



I was profoundly struck by this truth. It is in the hardship of suffering that the believer's heart is matured to become more Christ-like. When we set our roots deep in search of Him in our struggle, character is pulled from His Spirit working in us. I am certain I would never have learned the exquisite blessings in my life, had it not been for times of exquisite pain and surrender to God's purpose. There is a core of peace deep inside that cannot be shaken by trials and pain. That peace been forged through learning to trust His faithfulness and sovereignty.

Joni Eareckson Tada says her quadriplegia is a "bruising of a blessing, but a blessing nonetheless". Out of her suffering has grown a ministry that has reached millions. Join us for our July HKI meeting. We will benefit from what God has taught Joni.



"At the close of life, and in Heaven, we shall see occasion to bless God for all His dealings with us. We shall see that we have not suffered one pang too much, or been required to perform one duty too severe. We shall see that all our afflictions, as well as our mercies were designed for our good, and were needful for us. Why then should we not bless God in the furnace as well as in the palace; on a bed of pain as well as on a bed of down; in want as well as when sitting down at the splendid banquet? God knows what is best for us; and the way in which He leads us, mysterious though it seems to be now, will yet be seen to have been full of goodness and mercy."

Albert Barnes - 19th Century Theologian