



## **Discussion Guide: Beyond – Momentary Pain, Eternal Glory**

**March 22, 2026**

**New River Church**

### **Icebreaker**

What is something you've had to push through or endure because you knew something good was waiting on the other side?

### **Big Idea**

The pain we experience in this life is real, but it is not meaningless. God uses it to prepare us for an eternal glory that far outweighs anything we face now.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Pastor Keith shared the picture of running a race and enduring pain for the prize. Where in your life right now does it feel like you're in that "final stretch" where things are hardest?
2. Paul describes us as "jars of clay," carrying something incredibly valuable but still fragile. How does that help you understand both your weakness and your purpose?
3. The passage says we can be afflicted, perplexed, and struck down, but not crushed or destroyed. Which of those words best describes what you're walking through right now, and why?
4. Pastor Keith talked about how pain isn't pointless but is actually preparing us for something greater. How does that shift your perspective on the hardships you're currently facing?
5. One of the hardest things we're called to do is to fix our eyes on what we cannot see. What makes that difficult for you, and what helps you trust what God has promised?
6. Pastor Keith discussed how easy it is to become frustrated or even angry with God in suffering. Have you ever wrestled with that tension, and what did that process look like for you?
7. Pastor Keith reminded us that God doesn't ignore our pain. He sees every tear and even stepped into our suffering through Jesus. How does that truth change the way you view God in the middle of your pain?

### **Closing Reflection**

Pastor Keith invites us to ask, "Where is my hope anchored right now?" What would it look like this week to anchor your heart more deeply in the eternal glory God has promised?