Taking a child to receive a vaccination is a painful experience for everyone involved. What a toddler cannot understand, but what doctors and parents do, is that the pain experienced on that day greatly diminishes the possibility of greater pain in the future.

Sometimes God calls us to something that makes us uncomfortable or that may even cause us pain. For instance, when He called the disciples to follow Him, it meant trading a life of relative stability and comfort for years of wandering, persecution, and even death. Yet, consider the alternative: what if they’d rejected Jesus’ call that day beside the Sea of Galilee?

God tells us to take courage and step into the present/future that He has for us?whether we know exactly what it entails or not. Will we be the child who seeks to avoid temporary pain, ignorant of future peace, or will we be the parent accepting hardship now for the wholeness that awaits?