



## MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 4 – SUFFERING

**Essential Life Truth:** \_\_\_\_\_

↳ Every worldview has to \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **VIEWS OF SUFFERING**

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- Personal suffering is always the result of the \_\_\_\_\_ you have done in \_\_\_\_\_ or a \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- Suffering is merely an \_\_\_\_\_ that we must \_\_\_\_\_
- God exists, but He is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in human affairs
- There is no God, therefore suffering has no \_\_\_\_\_

### **BIBLICAL VIEW OF SUFFERING**

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- God is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- All suffering is an \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_
- God has \_\_\_\_\_ into and \_\_\_\_\_ human suffering with us
- God provides \_\_\_\_\_ of sin through the \_\_\_\_\_
- God is undoing the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin and will \_\_\_\_\_ His creation through Jesus

### **APPLICATION POINTS**

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- Accept that there are no \_\_\_\_\_ or fully \_\_\_\_\_ answers to the problem of suffering in *this world*
- Suffering is not always a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (**Job 1**)
- Do not mistake suffering or \_\_\_\_\_ with God's \_\_\_\_\_

*The Lord was with Joseph.*

– **Genesis 39:2-3, 21, 23**

- \_\_\_\_\_ the plan of God in the midst of suffering does not always indicate a \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 10:1, 16-18)
- God can leverage your suffering to draw you deeper into understanding His \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- The Gospel provides the only \_\_\_\_\_ that suffering is not \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>20</sup>*You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*

– Genesis 50:20

### **DIGGING DEEPER:**

1. What are some of the perspectives of suffering that you have encountered?
2. How does the biblical view of suffering differ from other religious or non-religious views of suffering?
3. Why does everyone, religious or not, have to wrestle with the problem of suffering?
4. How might the truth that God has entered into and experienced our suffering change your perspective on whether or not He cares?
5. What has God done in the world to ensure that suffering and sin have an expiration date?
6. Why is it important to understand that there are no simple or fully satisfying answers to the problem of suffering in *this* world?
7. When have you questioned God in the midst of suffering? How might it strengthen your faith to know that the Bible includes the questions of people who suffer?
8. What is important about the truth that suffering and silence do not indicate God's absence?
9. How can God leverage your pain and suffering to help you better understand His love and grace?
10. How does the Good News of Jesus provide hope that suffering is not ultimate?

### **RECOMMENDED RESOURCES ON THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING**

- *The Problem of Pain* by C.S. Lewis
- *Walking with God Through Pain and Suffering* by Timothy Keller