



## **Part 2: How Could A Loving God Allow So Much Suffering and Evil?**

If God is good, then how can he allow so much suffering? This is a troubling question, for sure and there are no simple answers. For some this question is more of an academic, philosophical question keeping them from embracing the Christian faith. For those who have or are suffering, this is an intensely personal matter where flippant answers only worsen the pain. In this message we'll examine some of the natural conclusions people draw to this age old question and then consider how God responds to suffering.

**Bottom Line:** We are not alone in our suffering.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. If you have one question to ask about God's management of the world and current events, what is that question?
2. What have you witnessed or experienced in life that has made it difficult for you to believe there is a good God running the world?
3. **Read Psalm 22:1-31.** With which verses do you most identify? Which verses give you comfort and encouragement?
  - a. Psalm 22 is known as a Psalm of the Forsaken. In fact, while on the cross, Jesus quoted from Psalm 22 and the Psalm has prophecies about the crucifixion. What did you find in the Psalm that either Jesus quoted or referenced his crucifixion?
  - b. How does understanding the connection between Psalm 22 and Jesus' own experience help you?
4. When have you seen God answer a prayer regarding relief to suffering? When have you seen those prayers not answered in the way you had desired? How does God help those who suffer?
5. Read Romans 12:9-21. Why do you think God wants us to enter into the suffering and trials of others? What are the results to them? To us?
6. What passages from the Bible have you found personally helpful in dealing with suffering and the questions you have for God about suffering and evil in the world?
7. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you? How can the group pray for or encourage you this week?

\*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.