

#### **Faith and Doubt part 4: A Resource for Groups and/or personal application:**

- Imagine a coworker asks you this week, “Why is there suffering in the world if God is good and loving and powerful?” How would you respond?
- Has the suffering you have experienced or seen in the world ever caused you to doubt God or even tempted you to abandon God?
- Are there instances when you think people unjustly blame God for suffering that is really our fault? if so explain...

*James 1:2 says, “Consider it pure joy...whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith develops perseverance.” In Romans 5:3-5 Paul writes, “We rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us.”*

- Can you relate? Have you ever rejoiced in your sufferings because of what God used them to accomplish in your life? explain..
- Corrie ten Boom once wrote these words from captivity in a Nazi death camp, “No matter how deep our darkness, Christ is deeper still.” What do these words mean to you?

*Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.*

- What do these promises mean to you? Do you have faith in what is promised here? Even though you may not fully understand it, do you have faith that one day God, through Christ, will not only take your suffering away, but that he will turn it all to joy and gladness? Why or why not?

*Read Hebrews 4:15-16*

- What do these verses mean to you?
- How do you feel at this point in this series? After considering all this, what do you sense God saying to you?

*Psalms 27 A beautiful prayer of hope in the midst of suffering.*