

# THE PROBLEM OF GOD

## PART THREE: THE PROBLEM OF EVIL AND SUFFERING

Here's the question millions of people have asked: if God is good and if God is all-powerful, why is there suffering? Every world religion and world view (including atheism and agnosticism) has to answer that question. Christianity has an unbelievably different kind of answer that almost everyone misses.

**BIG IDEA: Jesus not only suffered for us; He suffers with us.**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What 'easy' explanations have you heard from why people suffer? What are some of the least satisfying?
2. How has the problem of suffering impacted your life and the lives of the people you love?
3. Carlo explained alternative views to evil and suffering. How compelling did you find those worldviews?
4. With your Bible or Bible App, read Isaiah 53:4-9

*Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows[a] that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! 5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. 6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. 7 He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. 8 Unjustly condemned, he was led away.[b] No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream.[c] But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. 9 He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave.*

*Isaiah 53:4-9 (NLT)*

5. Read Romans 3:5-11, 23-26 and 1 Peter 5:10. What do these passages (along with Isaiah 53:4-9) show us about Jesus answering suffering by embracing it?
6. In the message, Carey talked about the difference between the reasons for your suffering and the redemption of your suffering. What's the difference?
7. While most of us will do whatever it takes to avoid suffering, answer this question: When have you grown the most? When life has been easy, or when there has been suffering? Why is that?
8. Suffering never leaves us spiritually neutral. Do you think it's possible for suffering to drive you deeper into your relationship with Christ? How?

### WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week, think about how you handle the pain and suffering in your life and the lives of those you love. Instead of letting it create distance between you and God, come closer to God who embraced suffering. The God who embraced suffering also longs to embrace you.

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