



MAY 2 -WHY IS THERE SO MUCH SUFFERING IN THE WORLD?

START TALKING | ASK A QUESTION TO GET YOUR GROUP TALKING.

- Have you ever gone on vacation or on a retreat by yourself? Where did you go, and what brought on the need to get away?
- What events in the world or your life have caused you to ask: Why is there so much suffering in the world?

START THINKING | ASK A QUESTION TO GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- Read Romans 8:18-21
- For some suffering, it can be explained; there is a simple cause and effect relationship: you did this so this consequence is the result. Do you have an example from childhood where a boundary was violated or crossed and there were consequences?
- Some suffering is mysterious. Have you ever had a relationship ended, and the reason is still mysterious to you today?
- In Jesus' hands, our suffering can be redemptive. How has God redeemed suffering in your life?

START READING | CHOOSE A QUESTION TO CREATE OPENNESS.

- Read John 16:33
- Have you experienced the power & peace from Christ when we share our pain with people that we love and trust?
- Read Genesis 2:15-17
- Free will, freedom, making our own choices, can lead to pain and suffering. Have you ever blamed God for the suffering that you brought on yourself through your choices?
- Read Isaiah 53:3-6, Who does this prophesied one sound like?
- Read Genesis 50:20
- Today, are you suffering right now? Are you walking alongside someone who is suffering?

START PRAYING | BE BOLD AND PRAY WITH POWER.

- *Lord Jesus, may we truly know and feel, deep in our bones that you care for us deeply and that you love us. It is hard to feel that at times when we are in pain and heartache and suffering. May we experience your presence in the people present with us and in your Holy Spirit mysteriously working good out of the awful things that happen to us on this earth.*

START DOING | COMMIT TO A STEP AND LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK.

- Take time to find ways to help the suffering in your life or in the world.