

Wisdom of the Bible ~ Suffering ~ Discussion Questions

1. Is suffering universal, i.e., do we all suffer? (Ezekiel 21:4, John 16:33)
A) Yes, everyone suffers. B) Most people suffer, but some do not.
2. It seems that some people suffer more than others. Why is this? (Isaiah 55:8-9, Psalm 73:16-17, 135:6)
A) They were bad and God is punishing them. B) It is God's will, but not his punishment. C) You sow what you reap. D) They were in the wrong place at the wrong time. E) It is random chance. F) No one knows.
3. Does the Lord sometimes desert you in your suffering? (Isaiah 41:10, Lamentations 3:19-24, Philippians 4:6-7) After all, if God deserted Jesus (briefly) when he was dying on the cross, why wouldn't he desert you? (Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34)
4. Is it sometimes good to suffer? Is there a benefit to it? Are there reasons for suffering? (Psalm 119:71, Romans 5:3-4, James 1:2-4, John 9:1-3)
5. Could God possibly allow some pain and suffering to get your attention? (Psalm 94:12, 119:71)
6. In addition to getting your attention, do you think God might allow suffering as part of his refining process? (Job 23:10, 33:14-20, Psalm 66:10, Proverbs 17:3, Isaiah 48:10)
7. Have you personally experienced suffering as part of God's refining process? How? When? Did it work? Did it last or is it something that God must repeat over and over? Why?