



## Community Group Discussion Guide

September 22, 2013

### Week 3 - The Problem of Pain

John 9:1-12

Read John 9:1-12 before answering the following questions.

#### Introduction

In this sermon series we're looking at nine of these 'crux of the matter' statements that are made by Jesus about some of life's most critical issues. Issues that have the potential to be life changing for every one of us.

#### Questions for Study

1. Is there a time in your life when you've gone through a very difficult period of suffering?

If you're in a Community Group share your experience with other group members. What it was. How it impacted you. What made it more difficult. What you found most helpful to make your way through it.

2. What were some of the questions that this experience created for you? Is there one question that knowing the answer was most important to you?
3. Have you ever been asked these two questions? "If God is so good, why does he allow suffering?" And... "If God is so powerful, why doesn't he stop suffering?" If you have or are asked these questions, what's your answer?
4. What do you think was in the mind of the disciples when they asked Jesus the question about the man born blind? Another way to ask this... What do we know they're assuming by the way they asked the question?
5. What would you say are the most common responses of people who are going through an extremely painful time in their life, or who are reacting to the suffering they see in the world?

For example, people's reaction to the following: The shooting last year at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Hurricane Sandy – lives lost and massive destruction of homes and businesses. This year the explosion of two bombs at the Boston Marathon, killing three people and injuring over 200 others. In the last two weeks, the floods in Colorado with loss of life and unbelievable destruction. This week the shooting at the Washington Navy Yard, killing 12 people and injuring 8 others.

6. According to the Bible, when and how did suffering become part of our human experience?
7. What was the answer Jesus gave to the disciples' question? What very important truth does it teach us about suffering?
8. There's at least three ways that suffering has the potential to display the work of God in our lives. Explain why this is true for each one of these ways:

Suffering strengthens character.

Suffering deepens our compassion.

Suffering handled with grace strengthens others.