

# Why All the Pain and Suffering?

## Lesson 5

### Class Goals:

- To gain a biblical perspective on suffering in the world
  - To better understand the character of God
  - To respond practically to suffering around us in a Christ-like manner
1. Read Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 4:17, and 1 Peter 4:13. How do these verses teach us to view suffering? Conclude by reading Revelation 21:4
  2. How do the verses above help us put Romans 8:28 into context? Should this verse be used to comfort someone who is going through suffering? If so, how?
  3. Read Galatians 6:2. The context of this verse has to do with those struggling with sin (see verse 1), but the overall principle applies to how Christians should look out for each other. How does that look, practically, when someone in the church is suffering?
  4. Case study: Your next-door neighbor has a 4-year-old son who tragically dies after running into the street and being hit by a car. What is the Christian response? How would your response change depending on whether your neighbor is a believer or not?

## 5. Stages of grief<sup>1</sup>

- “We are in a state of shock”
- “We express emotion”
- “We feel depressed and very lonely”
- “We may experience physical symptoms of distress”
- “We may become panicky”
- “We feel a sense of guilt about the loss”
- “We are filled with anger and resentment”
- “We resist returning to our usual activities”
- “Gradually hope comes through”
- “We struggle to affirm reality”

The value of recognizing that stages of grief are common is that when we are trying to offer comfort, we will see the telltale signs and respond appropriately.

## 6. How would you respond to someone who asks: “Why would God let there be so much evil?”

<sup>1</sup>Granger E. Westberg, *Good Grief: A Constructive Approach to the Problem of Loss*