Verses for the Why Me Study

1. <u>Sin and Suffering is A Key Context (Pervasive Reality) Of This Life:</u>
    a. Job 8:5
    b. But Jn 16:33; Rom 8:18-22
2. <u>What We Deserve:</u> Separation from God, His power, influence and grace; Hell (away from His presence and power and goodness)
    a. 2 Thess 1:9
    b. Ne 9:31; Lam 3:39 NASB; Ps 103:10
    c. Ps 103:10 (NASB)
3. <u>But the Awesome Sovereign Love of God:</u> Is always holding back sin and suffering—and giving, blessing
    a. Ps 32:7
    b. Ps 145:8-9
    c. He allows suffering Lam 3:32-33 (*causes*=the remote cause, by allowance)
    -But He is greater—*He uses what He hates to accomplish what He loves* (Steve Estes).
    The suffering God allows is not an indication of His unfaithfulness or His indifference,
    But His desire and plan to love you more, to be God to you, to be good to you in some very important, needed, most blessed way, that also allows you to bring Him glory (Zondra Scott).

    -All quite in keeping with his reason for knowing and still allowing the sin and suffering that would come into to our world with us (but not without also His grief, His compassion, His power over it, and His all-sufficient grace).
    ...that is—As was His Master Plan—that He might have a people of His own forever--real persons who could not be holy (unable to sin-or they would <u>be</u> God), and yet, could still be alive <u>and His</u> (a worshipping, abiding people, finding ALL in Him), and He be ours (taking pleasure in being our all-sufficient, benevolent God, in unselfish glory)…eventually in a place free from all pain, sorrow and suffering…for ALL eternity). For this, ALL THINGS can become useful, if to us All THINGS are for the main thing--that we be His people and He be our God…more—US finding ALL in Him and bringing Him Glory and pleasure, that only intern blesses and sustains us. Even <u>His</u> glory and pleasure is inseparable from his goodness. (Eph 1: 5-10 Psalm 89:1 Ps 68:19)
4. <u>God in Suffering-is Perfect:</u>
    a. 1Jn 1:5
    b. Deut 32:4
    c. Ps 89:14
5. <u>God in Suffering-His heart and work:</u> Ps 10:14-18
    a. He sees and hears Ps 10:14a; 17
    b. Is moved, grieves, is afflicted Is 63:9; 2Cor 1:3
    c. Acts (repays the unrepentant, removes and/or takes it into hand to turn it around and use it for good/blessing in Him, and for His glory) Rom 12:19; Ps 10:11-14b; Gen 50:20, Rom 8:23
6. <u>God Goes Farther</u>: He offers Himself and His sufficient grace/help (realized through prayer, the Word, and remembering Him) Lam 3:32-33
    a. His comfort, encouragement 2Cor 1:3-5; Ps 10:17b; Ps 34:18
    b. His power, strength, peace Is 26:3; Ps 73:23-26, 2Cor 9:8; Ps 62:1
    c. His person as a Refuge Ps 62: 5-8
    d. His sufficiency--to be all we need Ps 16:5; Phil 4:19-20
    e. His joy and satisfaction Ps 63:3-5; Jn 15:9-11
    f. His revelation Himself Jer 29:13; Jer 33:3
7. <u>When We Do Not Trust, Follow, and Know Him as Our Refuge, Or Find All in Him—WE WILL TURN TO ANOTHER REFUGE.</u>
    a. We forsake the fountain of living waters Jer 2:12-13a; Jer 17:5; Ps 18:30

b. We put our hope and trust in something else for strength, comfort and/or relief…far inferior, temporal. It will fail us. It will enslave us. It will lead to more sin –Jer 2:13b. (examples can be: drugs, alcohol, cutting, food, entertainment, novels, people, fantasizing, pretending, ignoring, distractions/business, forms of pleasure, shopping, etc.)
c. We must repent of this Is 55:7

8. And When He is Not All—WE WILL WORSHIP OTHER THINGS--idols (things we want, we hope in, we think will satisfy, we think might bring us real joy)
    a. We all do this (before Christ and at times), even though we are created to worship (supremely value, pursue, need, serve, hope in) God alone. Matt 4:10; Ezk 14:1-5; Jn 5:21
    b. Worshipping something else also means we will sin or despair over it. This is Spiritual Adultery against God—Hos 4:12; Jer 3:20 (examples can be: the approval of man, respect, being married, a stable financial situation, a deep satisfying human relationship, a problem/pain free life, a good marriage, children, good children, saved children, good health; control; a desired job; success; self-righteousness/sinlessness, kind treatment, etc.).
    c. We must repent of our idols/lusts. Ezk 14:6 Jer 4:1-4
    d. Our false refuges and Idols distance us from God (we from Him, not He from us if a believer) Ezk 14:5
    e. When in the place, we don't think God is all we need, we don't bring glory to God, and we don't have a meaningful, worshipful relationship with God…and eventually, we will despair of life.
9. When Our Idols Are Not Met, We Can Spiral to an Even Worse Place: Becoming bitter at God, judging Him.
    a. Job 40:1-10
    b. Jonah 4:1-4
    c. Heb 11:6
    d. We must admit and repent of this abomination-Rev 16:7 (Oh the patience and grace of God!)
10. But God Himself/Christ is The One True Treasure to Seek and Give Service and Glory To: This is where GREATER joy is.
    a. He is worthy of this place Ps 3:8; Ps 29:1-2
    b. He is our good, our sure hope, and what we need Ps 16:2; Ps 73:28; Heb 16:19
    c. He is our Joy and satisfaction Ps 43:4; Ps 4:7; Ps 107:9; Ps 36:7-9; Ps 16:11
    d. He knows what we do and don't need in our lives Ps 34:9-10
11. God is Gracious and Faithful to Work to Bring Us Back…If We Are blind about and/or remain with false refuges and/or idols
    a. He will work to recapture our heart, to show us HE is what life is all about, and what our life should be all about. Ezk 14:5; Is 30:18; Ps 73:23-26
    b. He will send the Truth of His Word (perhaps through others) to show us
    c. He may withhold, remove Idols or allow a trial to show us Ps 119:67, 71 ; Pro 17:3
    d. He may give us our Idols to show us Ezk 16:28
    e. He may discipline us in love Heb 12:5-10
12. The Return Involves: Confessing, Turning Trust And Treasure God/Christ
    a. Forsaking Idols for the Lord—Ps 86:11-12; 1Thess 1:9; Ps 73:25-26
    b. Forsaking False Refuges for the Lord—Jer 2:12-13; Ps 91:2
    c. In Humility—James 4:6