**What to Make of Suffering**

**Discussion Questions**

1. Have you ever experienced a genuine heartbreak in your life? Maybe it was the unexpected loss of a loved one, or maybe it was a gut wrenching tragedy. How did you handle it? What kind of emotions did you experience? If you have never experienced such heartache, how do you think you will handle it when you do?

2. We learned from the weekend message that there are no guarantees in life, and sometimes there are no explanations for the bad things that happen to us. What do the following verses say about the benefits of suffering? Can you say that you truly rejoice when you are suffer?

* Romans 5:3-4
* James 1:2-4
* II Corinthians 4:17
* Psalm 119:71
* II Corinthians 1:3-4

3. Martin Luther told Erasmus, “Your thoughts of God are too human.” Have your thoughts of God ever been “too human?” If so, in what has it been too human? In Job 38, God asked Job a series of rhetorical questions about who He is. Read the entire chapter and share which of the verses blessed you the most. What should our thoughts of God be?

4. If God is the one and only guarantee that we have, how then should we live? Can you say honestly what Paul said in Philippians 3:10 -- “I want to know Christ”? And can you say what Peter and John said in Acts 4:20 – “As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard”? What are some things you need to start doing to KNOW God and make Him KNOWN?

5. How actively are you endeavoring to “bear one another’s burdens,” “pray for one another,” and “weep with those who weep”? How transparent are you with others? What can you do this week to help someone who is suffering and in need?