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## Sermon Discussion Guide

Steven Shetterly - Suffering and Missions  
May 22, 2022

### Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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### Hook - Getting to know one another

1. What are some of the first things that come to your mind when you hear the word suffering?
2. Do you think that mission and suffering are connected to one another? Why or why not?

### Book

1. Read Psalm 55
  - a. What is the Psalmist here doing in response to his suffering?
  - b. What do you think it means that the Bible holds space for this type of prayer?
  - c. What is the trajectory of this psalmist's prayer? Are there any differences between what is said at the beginning of the psalm compared to the end?
2. Read Philippians 2:1-11
  - a. What is the significance of Jesus' "obedience" to suffering?
3. Read Philippians 3: 7-8
  - a. How do you think Paul would respond to the assertion of "Jesus suffered so that I don't have to."

### Look

1. How does our society view suffering? What are some examples you have observed of people who suffer well versus those who do not suffer well?
2. What are some points of suffering that you experience in your lives? How can we see Jesus in this suffering?



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### **Took**

1. What is something in your life right now that is leading to suffering? Do you have the tendency to either pretend that it does not exist? Do you have the desire to do everything in your power to make it disappear? Reflect on this, and make it a goal this week to take 10 minutes per day to say a prayer to lament to God about this trial and see what transformation occurs in your heart.

### Time of Prayer