

1. Satan, the author of suffering

- a) If God is good, why is there so much suffering in the world?
- b) 1 Peter 5:8 What inspired insight does Peter provide about the source of suffering?
- c) How does Jesus describe this hostile foe? John 8:44
- d) What additional insights are recorded about Satan’s rebellion in Revelation 12:7-11?
- e) What information about this rebellious angel are provided by the prophet Ezekiel? Ezekiel 28:13-17 (see also Isaiah 14:12-14)
- f) Share a story from the Scriptures where someone suffered a fierce attack from Satan. Jesus, Job, etc.
- g) What important counsel does the apostle Peter provide for those who are experiencing an attack from Satan? 1 Peter 5:9-11
- h) What additional instruction for those who are under attack by Satan is provided by the apostle Paul? Ephesians 6:10-18

2. Suffering and trials we bring upon ourselves

- a) What are some ways we bring suffering and trials upon ourselves? Galatians 6:7-8a, Romans 1:18-25
- b) What story does Solomon share about a careless young man who brought suffering upon himself? Proverbs 7:6-23
- c) Share a time when you brought suffering and trials upon yourself. How did God rescue you from that dangerous path?

3. Suffering or trials permitted by the LORD

- a) Share some examples from the Scriptures where the LORD allowed suffering or trials to come to His children to accomplish a greater good. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, Daniel in the lions’ den, the humbling of Nebuchadnezzar, Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail, etc.
- b) What can we learn from the apostle Paul’s experience with suffering? 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- c) Share a time when God brought you through a time of suffering or trial to accomplish something good in your life.
- d) What precious promise is found in Romans 8:28 for those experiencing suffering and trials?

4. Being prepared for suffering and trials

- a) Sometimes, it seems that followers of Jesus suffer more than unbelievers. Why?
- b) Why should we not be surprised when we experience suffering and trial? 1 Peter 4:12-19
- c) What is the best way to prepare for the suffering and trials we may face in the days ahead? James 4:7-10

