

1. Suffering even at birth and as a young child

- a) Luke 2:7 (see also Luke 2:22-24, Leviticus 12:8) What suffering did Jesus experience at the time of His birth?
- b) Matthew 2:1-16 What greater suffering was Jesus exposed to shortly after His birth?
- c) What trials did Jesus experience as a young child after His parents returned from Egypt? John 1:46

2. Experiencing rejection from those He came to save

- a) Isaiah 53:3 What prophecy about a suffering Messiah was given 700 years before His birth?
- b) Where do you see this prophecy fulfilled in the life of Jesus? John 1:11, Matthew 12:22-24, Luke 4:21-30, John 8:58-59
- c) Why did rejection from those He came to save cause intense suffering for Jesus? Matthew 23:37
- d) How can the reaction of Jesus to the rejection He experienced comfort us when we experience rejection for His name's sake? John 15:18-21, 16:1-3

3. Suffering in Gethsemane

- a) How would you describe the suffering of Jesus in Gethsemane? Matthew 26:36-39, Luke 22:41-44
- b) How did the behavior of the disciples add to His suffering? Mark 14:32, 37-42
- c) Think of a time when you were sleeping when you should have

been praying. How does such behavior add to the suffering of Jesus even today?

- d) What additional suffering did Jesus experience when He was betrayed by Judas? Luke 22:47-53

4. Suffering during mockery of a trial

- a) Luke 22:63-65, Matthew 26:67
- b) Luke 23:11
- c) John 19:1-3
- d) What additional emotional suffering did Jesus experience after His arrest? Matthew 26:69-75
- e) Have you ever turned your back on Jesus? What can we learn from the way Jesus treated Peter after he had denied with curses that he even knew Jesus? (John 21:15-19)

5. Suffering on the cross

- a) What was the most painful cry of Jesus from the cross? Matthew 27:45-46
- b) While suffering on the cross, where do you see the love of God revealed in the interaction of Jesus with others? Luke 23:34, 39-43, John 19:26-27
- c) Reflect on Paul's testimony in Philippians 3:7-11.
- d) How do you respond to the amazing manifestation of the immeasurable, unfailing love of God in the sufferings of Christ?

