



### Week 3 (October 23, 2016)

#### INTRODUCTION

"That's not the way it should be." "That's not right." "Someone should do something about that." One of the barriers to faith continues to be a world that is not what it could be or should be. It can be hard to believe in a good God when the world is not always good. In this series, we will examine some of the most common expressions of doubt in the God of the Bible.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever prayed for something that really mattered to you over a long period of time? What was that like? Was the outcome what you had hoped for?
2. Why do you think God doesn't always answer our prayers the way we want him to?
3. Read Genesis 50:15-21. Joseph had endured years and years of abuse because his brothers sold him into slavery when he was young. What enabled Joseph to say, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."?
4. Joseph at least could see the positive things that God did through his suffering...but what about the times when we *can't* see a positive outcome when God doesn't answer our prayers the way we would like?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. We don't know what Paul was dealing with, but we do know that he endured many difficulties while serving God. What was God's answer to his prayer?
6. Is there anything that you are praying for right now where God's answer might be, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."?

*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*

-2 Corinthians 12:9