

# WHERE IS GOD?

April 4 & 5, 2020

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

**Psalm 22:1**



## REFLECT

1. Think back over the last day or week. What are you most grateful for? What are you least grateful for? Take note of a few moments of significance.
2. Where have you seen God? What is He showing you about Himself? After reflecting, thank God for His gifts to you and for all the ways He is drawing you to Himself.



## DISCUSS

1. Read Psalm 22:1-11. How do you hear these words today? As you wonder where God is in this pandemic, are you seeking an answer that satisfies your head or your heart?
2. How have you made sense of suffering intellectually? Do you identify with the Karmic, Buddhist, Shame/Honor, or Secular Materialist answers to suffering?
3. Have you ever questioned the goodness or trustworthiness of God?
  - a. If so, how did you move through that? What did you learn?
  - b. If not, are you questioning Him now?
4. Read Mark 15:25-39. Imagine Jesus offering Psalm 22 as a prayer to the Father in His final breaths. How does this enrich its meaning for you today? What is it like to cry out to the Father with Jesus by the Holy Spirit, for yourself or for the world?
5. How do you respond to this reflection from Jerry Sittser, the professor who lost several loved ones in a car accident?
  - a. "No matter how deep the pit into which I descend, I keep finding God there. He is not aloof from my suffering but draws near to me when I suffer. He is vulnerable to pain, quick to shed tears, and acquainted with grief. God is a suffering Sovereign who feels the sorrow of the world."<sup>[1]</sup>



## LIVE IT OUT

1. Choose one account of the crucifixion to read this week (Matthew 26-27; Mark 14-15; Luke 22-23; John 18-19). What do you notice? Meditate on the truth that God has answered the question of suffering with Himself.
2. For those who have accepted the Christian worldview, there may be many around you whose understandings of reality have been deeply disrupted by this pandemic. How might God be calling you to compassion, prayer, study, listening, or witness to minister to those who are struggling intellectually or existentially with the problem of suffering?
3. Is there anything you need to confess, surrender, change, or do this week?



## PRAYER

[1] Gerald L. Sittser, *A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows Through Loss* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995), 143.