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Humans need more than information;
we crave explanations.

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¹¹Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite.

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They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him. ¹²And when they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him.

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And they raised their voices and wept, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads toward heaven. ¹³And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights,

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and no one spoke a word to him,
for they saw that his suffering was very great.
—Job 2:11-13 ESV

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What does suffering do?

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¹After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. ²And Job said: ³“Let the day perish on which I was born, and the night that said, ‘A man is conceived.’” —Job 3:1-3 ESV

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Why me? Why this? Why now?

¹¹Why did I not die at birth, come out from the womb and expire?... ²⁰Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter in soul...

²³Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in?

—Job 3:11, 20, 23 ESV

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“Suffering is much more than a philosophical problem. It’s a personal experience that engulfs the body, mind and soul of the sufferer. It’s emotional, intellectual, circumstantial and spiritual.”

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What do you think about suffering?

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Suffering is punishment for wrong doing
vs.
blessing is favor for right living.

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⁴As for you, you whitewash with lies; worthless physicians are you all. ⁵Oh that you would keep silent, and it would be your wisdom! —Job 13:4-5 ESV

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²I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are you all. ³Shall windy words have an end? Or what provokes you that you answer? —Job 16:2-3 ESV

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What do we know about suffering?

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WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT SUFFERING?

- Suffering is Common

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WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT SUFFERING?

- Suffering is Often Confusing

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WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT SUFFERING?

- Suffering is Sometimes Consequential

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WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT SUFFERING?

- Suffering Shapes Character

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³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope. —Romans 5:3-4 ESV

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⁷¹It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn Your statutes. ⁷²The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces. —Psalm 119:71-72 ESV

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WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT SUFFERING?

- Suffering is Sometimes Corrective

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“Your suffering is more powerfully shaped by what’s in your heart than by what’s in your body or the world around you.”
—Paul David Tripp, *Suffering*

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WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT SUFFERING?

- Suffering May be Cosmic

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“You desire to know the art of living, my friend?
It is contained in this phrase: make use of suffering.”
—Henri-Frédéric Amiel

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What is your response in suffering?

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“The total amount of suffering per year in the natural world
is beyond all decent contemplation... In a universe of
blind physical forces and genetic replication,

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some people are going to get hurt, other people are going
to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason in it,
nor any justice.

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The universe that we observe has precisely
the properties we should expect if there is,
at bottom, no design,

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no purpose, no evil, no good,
and nothing but pitiless indifference.”

—Richard Dawkins, *River Out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life*

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“Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.”

—Job 13:15 NKJV

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“Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in
our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our
pains. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” —C.S. Lewis

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