**Small Group Discussion Questions: Oct 21, 2018**

**Why Does God Allow Suffering?**

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
2. Discuss last week’s weekly challenge, “ask someone if they believe there is only one way to God and why they came to their conclusion”.
3. Can you recall a time when you were in pain or suffering and you questioned why God was allowing it to happen? How did you process this?
4. The problem of pain & suffering has the power to draw people towards or away from God. From your experience, how have you witnessed this?
5. In the message it was said that “God can still be good and allow suffering if that suffering allows a greater good to take place.” How do you understand this?
6. Pastor Keith used the illustration of allowing his son to be vaccinated and witnessing the hurt and confusion in his eyes. How does this illustration help us understand God and the problem of pain? Can you think of your own story along the same lines?
7. The Biblical story of Joseph provides reasoning for why one man was allowed to endure great suffering. Can you think of any other stories like this in the Bible? In your own life, have you seen how God used particular suffering for a greater good?
8. It was argued that the Christian story (the Bible) provides the best solution(s) for dealing with the problem of suffering. What are some ways that it helps? How do other religions or worldviews deal with the problem of suffering?
9. What should be the Christian response to pain and suffering in this world?
10. How would you comfort a Christian who was experiencing great pain and suffering?
11. How would you respond to someone who says, “Look at the recent hurricanes”? “How can you say a loving God exists?”

**This Week’s Challenge:**

 This week, find at least one way in which you can help alleviate pain or suffering from another person(s). Let them know why you are helping them.