



## A 7-week Study on Biblical Reconciliation

### “Suffering and Sonship” Discussion Guide Session 4

**Key Verse:** *“Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?”* (Luke 24:26)

**Point 1:** God wants to come alongside us in our suffering and for us to come alongside one another.

*Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup> but they were kept from recognising him. <sup>17</sup> He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup> One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” <sup>19</sup> “What things?” he asked. (Luke 24:13-19)*

This week we find Jesus on the very day of his resurrection, coming alongside two discouraged disciples, as they walk along discussing the events of his death. The passage tells us that “their faces (were) downcast” (verse 17) and that Jesus “walked along with them” (verse 15). In order to experience healing in community, we need to be willing to come alongside one another in our suffering. Paul says in 2 Cor 1:3-4, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.” The Greek word “paraklesis” (comfort) means “coming alongside”.

When we’re going through suffering, we may ask ourselves, “Does God really love me? Why does God allow bad things to happen to me?” Jesus promised in John 16:33, “in this world you will have trouble”, but we need not face the troubles of life alone. Sometimes we put on a “mask” and try to pretend that all is well, we cover our pain and feel that we are alone. The scripture calls God the “God of hope” and describes how we can be a source of hope to others, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13-14). Jesus wants to come alongside us in our suffering and help us to come alongside one another.

**? Why did Jesus ask them to explain what had happened? What does this example model for us?**

**Point 2:** Jesus suffered for us, not only to deal with the consequences of our sin, but to bring healing.

*“What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup> but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup> In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup> but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.” <sup>25</sup> He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how*

*slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. (Luke 24:19-27)*

What was God's response to all the evil, all the injustice, all the suffering in the world? He came into the world in Jesus to become the greatest sufferer, to take the responsibility for everything even though He was not guilty, and to experience the greatest injustice of all. He came to take it all onto Himself on the Cross, bear the guilt and punishment for all of it and pay the price for all of it - death. In doing this, He became both sin bearer and pain bearer. The glorious news of the gospel is that Jesus dealt with both sin and pain on the Cross. Hebrews 5:8-9 says, "Though he was a Son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him." Read Isaiah 53:3-5 (see below)

Isaiah 53:4 says, 'Surely He has borne our grief and carried our sorrows.' Jesus not only carried our sin on the Cross, he also carried all the consequence of sin being in the world. On the Cross, Jesus is saying, 'Count Me guilty. Give Me all the world's sin and sorrows. I will suffer in your place.' Jesus understands our suffering. He was He was betrayed by a friend • He was rejected by his own people • He was beaten, mocked, spat upon • He was Crucified • He was forsaken by his Father. It was prophesied that He would be 'a man of sorrows, familiar with suffering' and would be 'despised and rejected' (Isaiah 53:3)

**? *How does it make you feel that Jesus suffered for you? How can we put into practice what Jesus did?***

**Point 3: God desires for us to come alongside one another as we bring our suffering to the Cross.**

*Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? <sup>2</sup> He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. <sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. (Is 53:1-5)*

As we come to this point in our study together, we have the privilege of reminding ourselves that Jesus is our sin and pain bearer. We can be relieved of the heavy weight of the pain that we have been carrying. When we bring sin to the Cross, we need to repent, but there is no need to repent for being wounded. We can repent of bitterness or the desire for revenge, but there is no need to repent of feeling pain. Leaving our pain at the cross, we can identify and renounce the lies we have believed as a result of our wounding. As we bring these things to the Cross, we can move on, free to move forward and start to live again.

We do not simply leave our pain, anger, shame and so on at the Cross. Jesus paid the full price so that He could give us something in exchange. Instead of our sin, He gives us His righteousness; instead of our pain, He gives us His joy; instead of our rejection, He gives us His acceptance; instead of our fears He gives us His peace; instead of our despair He gives us hope; instead of our anger He gives us the power to forgive; and so on. All this is possible through Jesus' victory over sin and death by His own death and resurrection. Just as through His work on the cross Jesus broke down the "dividing walls" in our relationships, His work on the Cross also means that we can experience full healing and then become agents of healing in our world.

**? *Will you take a step of faith and share some area of pain that you would like to bring to the Cross? Take time to really listen to the hearts and suffering of each other, so we can share Jesus' compassion.***

