

# **CONCEPTIONS**

*#6: suffering means God hates me*



# **Misconception #6: Suffering means God hates me**

*Sermon outline and notes*

***There is no universal 'law' of suffering***

***God does not do/allow anything out of malicious intent***

***There is a difference between...***

*...what God commands or desires  
(What makes him happy)*

*...and what God permits or decrees  
(What he does as God who is in control of everything)*

***Why is there suffering?***

*4 types...*

*The root cause...*

***Why does God allow suffering?***

*Three reasons...*

*...which help us to know what to do when we suffer*

***Will it ever end?***

*Most definitely...*

# ***Misconception #6: Suffering means God hates me***

## ***Family / Community Group questions***

### ***Intro***

- "Does my suffering mean that God hates me?"  
Before listening to the sermon, how would you have answered this question?  
How would the people you engage with most answer it (co-workers, friends, family)?

### ***Discuss***

- How can we be sure that suffering does not mean that God must hate us?
- How does the difference between what makes God happy and how he wields his sovereignty help us to know suffering does not mean that God hates us?

### ***Engage***

- What ways might we experience suffering?
- What root cause does the Bible give for suffering in the world?
- What does the Bible reveal about the reasons why God allows suffering?
- How does this help us to know what to do when we suffer?
- How does knowing that there will be an end to suffering for all who trust in Jesus help us to persevere in suffering now?

### ***Apply***

- How has the Holy Spirit and the Word...
  - strengthened your understanding of how and why we suffer?
  - challenged your understanding of how and why we suffer?
- When you find yourself speaking with someone who has the misconception that 'Suffering means God hates me', how might you be able to use this to begin pointing them to the truth of the Bible and their need for Jesus and his Gospel?