

**WHO DO THEY SAY THAT HE IS?** During this series, we will explore how other faiths view Jesus Christ in light of our own expressions of faith in Him as Savior and Lord. This week we will study **1 Peter 2:20-25 and 3:18** with Pastor Greg Loewer as he asks the question, ***Who Do Christian Scientists Say He Is?***

1. Recall a time when you or someone close to you went through a period of intense suffering or loss, particularly a situation over which the person suffering had no control. Did this situation cause you to ponder why a loving God would allow such suffering?

The problem of evil is the attempt to reconcile three realities: we have a loving God; we have an all-powerful God; yet there is evil and suffering in the world. Various philosophical and religious approaches to this problem deny one of those three aspects of the problem. This week we will consider one that attempts to deny the reality of sin and suffering. True Christianity recognizes the triumph of Jesus over sin and death.

2. **Read and reflect on 1 Peter 2:20-25.** Sit and reflect with this passage for about 10 minutes. **Reread it again** aloud, listening carefully to each word.

- What does this passage reveal to you about the nature and character of Jesus?
- What does this passage indicate about the reality of suffering?
- What does **verse 24** indicate about the result of Jesus' suffering on the cross?

3. **Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12.** This passage is a prophecy about the suffering servant who would come to redeem Israel. That passage was fulfilled by the suffering and death of Jesus. Look for references to the Isaiah passage in **1 Peter 2**.

- What does the Isaiah passage indicate about the reality of the servant's suffering?
- What do verses 11 and 12 indicate about the outcome of His suffering?

4. The Old Testament book of Job is a classic example of suffering. Job lost everything but his own life and that of his wife. His supposed friends came to him and tried to figure out why these bad things had befallen Job. Much of the book is their suggestions and accusations and Job's own questioning of God. The words of **Job 38:1-41:34** are God's response to Job and his friends. **Read Job 42:1-6:** Job's final response to God's revelation.

- What does Job indicate about his own thoughts and words in response to the words and actions of God?
- What does this passage indicate about the nature of suffering and the power of God?

5. **Read John 9:1-7.**

- What does this passage say about Jesus?
- What does it say about the causes of suffering?
- What does it indicate about the power of Jesus?

6. **Read and reflect on 1 Peter 3:18.** Sit and reflect with this verse for about 10 minutes.

- **Reread it again** aloud, listening carefully to each word, asking God to reveal to you new insight on who Jesus is and how He transforms our lives.
- Share with your group insight you may have received.

What have you learned about the nature and character of Christ this week through your study of **1 Peter 2 and 3**?

Spend time praying that God will continue to reveal Christ to you in new and growing ways in the days and weeks ahead.