



**Review:** We complete our view of God's decisive intervention in the world by looking at him as a sufferer. Marvel at how the same God who created, set his people aside and led him through innumerable difficulties is the same God who sustains our current world, calls us to faith and remains with us in our most difficult times. But more than that, he suffered alongside us.



**Discuss:**

- Think of the times that you have felt closest to God. How does it help you to think that he has experienced the lows and highs of life?
- Read the Gethsemane account in Matthew's gospel (26:36-46). What evidence do you find that Jesus' dilemmas and troubles were typically human, real and tangible?
- What difference does it make that Jesus suffered in Gethsemane and on the cross? To what extent might it change our perspective on our own trials and those of people for whom we care?
- What hope does faith in Jesus offer someone who is suffering, both in the present and the future? What could we pray for in a situation of suffering?



**Pray :**

We thank Lord that you came not just as a man, and a servant but as one who shares in our suffering. We pray that we will understand how you suffered, why and come to a greater knowledge of your sacrifice.

We pray that we will be your witnesses when we are in hardship. That we can minister carefully to those enduring illness, pain, loss or other forms of suffering, by your grace.

Pray for all those who suffer. That they might know Jesus in their hardship and relate to him as one who understands, cares and loves – from the Cross.