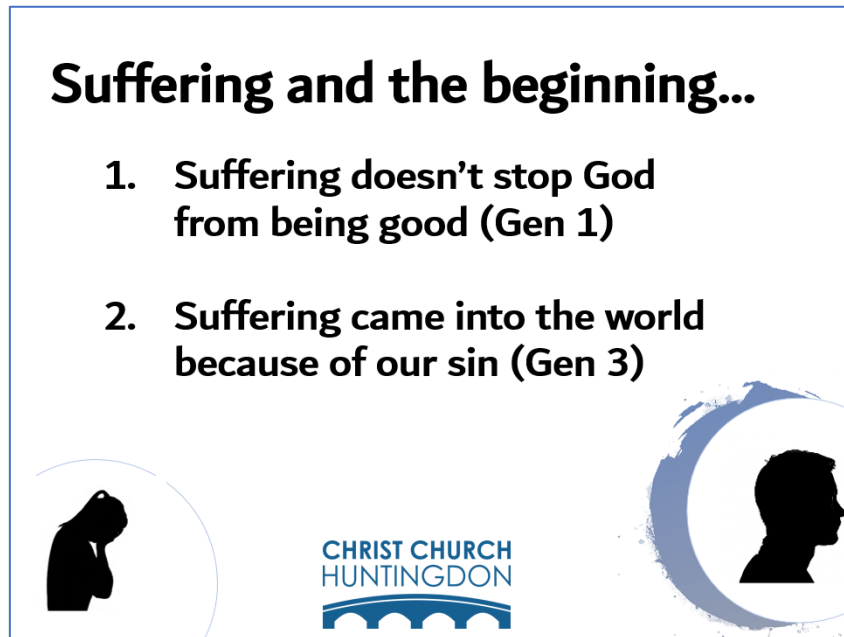


Sermon 1) Suffering from the perspective of the Beginning



Questions for further investigation on your own or in small groups...

- 1) The question of suffering can be a philosophical (theoretical), personal or practical one. How do you feel about this topic, and what issues or questions do you bring?
- 2) How do you see God's goodness in Genesis 1?
- 3) As you read Genesis 3, what kinds of suffering came into the world with the fall?
- 4) [If time: If someone is suffering more than others, does that mean they have sinned more than others? While the Bible would call on us to examine our lives (CS Lewis said that "Suffering was God's megaphone to rouse a deaf world"), how do these Bible verses prove that suffering experienced is not directly related to sin committed?
 - a. John 9:1-3
 - b. Luke 13:1-5
 - c. Job 27:1-6Are there any lessons here on helping a friend who is suffering?]
- 5) Do you have any good Bible verses about God's goodness to store up for yourself or a friend for when suffering comes?

Some Further Resources...

- <https://www.bethinking.org/does-god-exist/stephen-fry-and-god> – Stephen Fry's rant against God and a fascinating response from pastor Ian Paul.
- <https://www.bethinking.org/suffering> – a range of articles/podcasts on suffering.
- http://www.stevekmccoy.com/blog/2006/09/tim_keller_911 – transcript of a talk by Tim Keller to the relatives of those lost in 9/11 New York twin towers disaster.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIUBHszdqOU> – "The Long Silence" – a short video that looks at the question "isn't God to be blamed for suffering?"