



[suffering]  
happens

10 January 2016

**Key Texts**

John 1:1; 14:7-9  
Romans 10:21  
Philippians 2:6  
Colossians 1:15-16  
Hebrews 1:1-3

Thinking & talking through the biblical text during the week helps turn what God is saying into action steps. Here are some key questions to get you started.

- What additional questions and comments did you have about the sermon and supporting texts?

Read **Romans 10:21**

- What does this verse say about God's response to our suffering... to the [stuff] that happens in our lives?
- Do you think the 4 models of power Mike mentioned in this sermon are valid: Neanderthal – Machiavellian – Wisdom – Agape?
- Do you agree with Mike's assessment of these powers?
- In what ways do you see God operating in the different powers?
- In your own life, what ways does God's power show up?
- Do the different types of power help you to look for God's power in different ways? How so?

Read **John 1:1, 14:7-9; Philippians 2:6; Colossians 1:15-16; Hebrews 1:1-3**

- What do these verses say about who Jesus is and what God is like?
- There are two main ways in which we can apply this understanding of power to suffering in this world.
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> is that we shouldn't read the world's events as God's will, but rather, look for God's will in the events. If God is agape power in this world, then we must look for where he is working because it won't look like Neanderthal power.
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> is looking at our own lives and trying to sense where God is. God is always present, but he's not a puppet master. He influences this world through his agape power, but he won't club the world over the head until the time is right. He also won't club us over the head. Be always looking for how God reacts to the suffering in your life, and in that way, you will be able to find the peace that transcends whatever you are going through. Even if all you find is God weeping with you.
- In the areas of life where you have power, in what ways can you be more agape power oriented?