

Read each of the verses below and write down God's heart and activity with those who are suffering:

- Psalm 34:18 and 147:3
- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
- Isaiah 43:2-3
- Revelation 21:4

### **Taking It Home**

Looking back at this week's teaching and study, what is the most important thing for you to remember and why?

What is an area of brokenness, pain, hurt, or suffering that you have recently or are currently experiencing? How can you surrender that situation to God and allow his grace to bring healing and growth from it?

Evaluate the last 24 hours of your life. Identify two places where remembering or more intently living as a "citizen of heaven" (i.e., bound by the purposes and desires of God) might have had a positive impact. How can you change your behavior for similar times in the future?

Sermon Notes

### **Why Do the Innocent Suffer?**

**Jerry Walls**  
January 22, 2012



**WORDserve**  
C H U R C H  
Life is Different!

## Community Group Study Guide

*For the week of January 22, 2012*

### Getting to Know You

Food is a big part of most of our lives. If you had to give up a favorite food, which one would be the most difficult for you to give up? What is one food you'd be happy to never eat again?

Of all our senses, smell seems to be the one that is best at bringing back memories. Our sense of smell has the ability to instantaneously trigger memories of events, places, or people from our past. Can you think of one or two smells that trigger good memories of your childhood?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### Digging Deeper

Throughout Scripture, writers addressed suffering as a part of the Christian faith. Read these passages and jot down things you notice:

- John 16:33
- Romans 8:18, 28

- Philippians 3:17-20
- James 1:2-4, 12

How do these passages challenge the way that people should view suffering, troubles, and hardship in their lives?

What are ways that someone might maximize the work and growth that God desires to bring through the hardships encountered in everyday life?

Read Luke 9:21-27. Write down things you notice.

How does Jesus' suffering serve as a model or pattern for Christians to follow?