



## Week Leading up to 10.17.21: Mercy and Suffering

**\*{Start with reviewing the previous meeting's challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

**Let's Begin:** Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

### **Opening Prayer:**

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

**Read: Mk 10:35-45 or 10:42-45**

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

*Dear God, You know the depths of our suffering and desire to walk with us if only we allow You to do so. We thank you for giving us Your son, Jesus Christ, and His perfect example of mercy and suffering. May Your grace cover us so that we gain a greater understanding of how we can connect our suffering to Christ's for the benefit of others. In Your Holy Name we pray. Amen*

### **Reflection or Discussion Question:**

1. After reading this Gospel, do you believe that one can enter heaven without suffering or being a servant to God and others? Why do you think/feel God wants us to join in His suffering?

**YouTube Video:** If God is Merciful, Then Why is There Suffering with Fr. Chris Alar (9:16)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=qn8Ht3Se58A&feature=youtu.be>

### **Reflection or Discussion Questions:**

2. Have you ever struggled with thinking that God isn't all loving? Can you share? How did you overcome it?
3. Have you witnessed God turn a hurtful or evil event into a greater good? Please share.
4. Do you believe that God causes suffering directly and/or indirectly? Why or why not?
5. This video discusses the reason why God would allow suffering (pride). Do you believe this to be true? Do you think there may be other reasons as well? Does this help you to understand the mercy in suffering?
6. Have you ever connected your suffering to Christ? Why did you do this and were there outcomes you would be willing to share?
7. Should we always accept our suffering, or should we always pray that it be taken from us? How can we know? Can you share a time when you accepted your suffering? What is the Catholic Church's understanding of redemptive suffering in relation to assisted suicide or euthanasia?

**{Leaders please let your group know that if they have any additional questions regarding the session today, that they are encouraged to follow up with Mike Chamberland at [mchamberland@olsorrows.com](mailto:mchamberland@olsorrows.com) or by calling 248-474-5720.}**

**Session Challenges:** {Choose one or both}

- There is so much suffering in the world today. Fast from something or connect your physical suffering to the suffering of Christ on the cross with the intention that others may know God's love and mercy and peace. Share what you did with others in your group next time you meet.
- Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for those that are currently suffering or have died. [How to pray the Chaplet.](#)

**Closing Prayer:** (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

*Dear Jesus, our minds are so feeble in our understanding of how to love sacrificially. We ask for Your protection and healing of all those things we are currently suffering with both physically and spiritually. We also ask for the courage needed to remain steadfast in our faith and accept the suffering You allow us to go through, knowing that it can help to purify us and draw us closer to You. In Your Merciful Name. Amen.*

**{Optional additional Readings}** Sunday Reading 1: [Is 53:10-11](#) Sunday Reading 2: [Heb 4:14-16](#)