1. Satan, the author of suffering
   a) If God is good, why is there so much suffering in the world?
   b) 1 Peter 5:8 What inspired insight does Peter provide about the source of suffering?
   c) How does Jesus describe this hostile foe? John 8:44
   d) What additional insights are recorded about Satan’s rebellion in Revelation 12:7-11?
   e) What information about this rebellious angel are provided by the prophet Ezekiel? Ezekiel 28:13-17 (see also Isaiah 14:12-14)
   f) Share a story from the Scriptures where someone suffered a fierce attack from Satan. Jesus, Job, etc.
   g) What important counsel does the apostle Peter provide for those who are experiencing an attack from Satan? 1 Peter 5:9-11
   h) What additional instruction for those who are under attack by Satan is provided by the apostle Paul? Ephesians 6:10-18

2. Suffering and trials we bring upon ourselves
   a) What are some ways we bring suffering and trials upon ourselves? Galatians 6:7-8a, Romans 1:18-25
   b) What story does Solomon share about a careless young man who brought suffering upon himself? Proverbs 7:6-23
   c) Share a time when you brought suffering and trials upon yourself. How did God rescue you from that dangerous path?

3. Suffering or trials permitted by the LORD
   a) Share some examples from the Scriptures where the LORD allowed suffering or trials to come to His children to accomplish a greater good. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, Daniel in the lions’ den, the humbling of Nebuchadnezzar, Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail, etc.
   b) What can we learn from the apostle Paul’s experience with suffering? 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
   c) Share a time when God brought you through a time of suffering or trial to accomplish something good in your life.
   d) What precious promise is found in Romans 8:28 for those experiencing suffering and trials?

4. Being prepared for suffering and trials
   a) Sometimes, it seems that followers of Jesus suffer more than unbelievers. Why?
   b) Why should we not be surprised when we experience suffering and trial? 1 Peter 4:12-19
   c) What is the best way to prepare for the suffering and trials we may face in the days ahead? James 4:7-10