**DOWN TO THE STUDS**

Why Does God Allow Suffering

1. What is something painful that you’ve experienced in your life? How did you make sense of it at the time, in terms of your life story?
2. What effect did your experience of pain or suffering have on your relationship with God? Why?
3. Read Matthew 16:24-27. What lesson does Jesus want his followers to learn, regarding hard things in life?
4. Think back on the example you came up with in Question One. In which ways did God use that experience in your life: as a Curb, to prompt you to make a change? as a Mirror, to help you cling to God even more? as a Guide, to grow and deepen you in wisdom?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. What promise does God make to us about the suffering that we endure in this life? How can you cling to that promise this week?