

What were the three ways, according to Isaiah, that the coming Messiah was going to relieve the suffering of captives, the blind, and those who were oppressed?

What was the good news that Jesus (as the Messiah) proclaimed *and offered* to those who were suffering?

What does God want us to hear? Based on the passages above, what are the factual “takeaways” that are meaningful to you?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO DO?

What is the difference between natural evil and moral evil? How can both be traced back to the presence of sin in the world?

Describe the difference between people who suffer because of their own actions and those who suffer because of the actions of others.

If God were to suddenly snap his fingers and get rid of all the evil in the world, what, or who, would be left?

What is God’s plan to eventually get rid of all evil, and thus suffering, in the world?

What does God want us to do? Flowing out of our reading and interpretation, what action does this passage or the Spirit’s leading, nudging us toward?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

Identify a significant loss you’ve experienced, especially one caused by the indifference, negligence, or malice of someone else.

If you haven’t already, begin the process of grieving that loss until it eventually loses its power over you.

Sit with someone this week who is suffering, and walk alongside that individual in his or her grief. Well-meaning “words of wisdom” may not be helpful during this time.

What does God want ME to do? What is the personal application and action step that the Holy Spirit is calling you toward?