

## Small Group Questions – The Week of December 4, 2016

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 45:1-8

### Questions for Discussion

1. Read Isaiah 45:5-6. What truth about God is repeated in these verses? Why is this truth important to remember during seasons of suffering?
2. What types of suffering have you experienced recently, either personally or in the lives of others? How has that affected your faith in God?
3. Read Isaiah 45:7. What is your initial reaction to the idea that God creates darkness and calamity and is sovereign over them?
4. “As present as the pain might be, God is more present.” Can you recall a time when you experienced this reality, or observed it in the life of another person?
5. Professor Dan McCartney has written, “the main reason that Christians insist that God can be trusted in the midst of suffering is that...God himself has firsthand experience of suffering.” How did God himself experience suffering? How does this shape our attitude towards the Incarnation of Jesus Christ?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. What truths and promises helped Paul become content with calamities? How is Paul’s contentment Christlike?