

Chapter 11 Discussion Questions

1. Come to Equipping Hour ready to share the one concept from Chapters 1-10 that has most impacted the way you make biblical friendships.
2. What does Mehl mean by the term “gospeling”? Why is gospeling essential in our biblical friendships as we disciple one another? (pp.147-149)
3. On pages 150-152, what is Mehl’s purpose for telling Arash and Leila’s story?
4. In the section “Our Misunderstanding of Suffering” (pp.152-154), what was corrective to you personally as you respond to the suffering of others?
5. On pages 154, Mehl says, “Unless the causative connection between a person’s suffering and thier sin is absolutely clear, don’t even try to make a connection.” Why do you agree or disagree? What is Mehl trying to prevent with this counsel?
6. On pages 155-157, Mehl reflects on how suffering effects us in three broad categories. (Only the first is specifically numbered.) What are they?
7. Stretch question: How could thinking through each of these three categories lead to wisdom in your gospeling?
8. On the bottom of page 157, Mehl wants to push us beyond thinking of people as “suffering” or “not suffering.” To do so, he lists on pages 158-159 some categories of ways in which people suffer. What should you do with the truth that “every person is suffering every day”?
9. On pages 160-161, Mehl briefly teaches us the “discipline of lament.” What are some characteristics of God-pleasing lament? Has your appreciation of lament increased after this chapter? (If you would like to spend more time learning about the biblical patterns of lament, a great resource is *Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy* by Mark Vroegop.)
10. In summary, what connections are there between suffering and gospeling?