

Read Exodus 5:22-6:8, 7:1-5

Despite his reluctance and inability, Moses was commissioned by God to liberate the Hebrews from Pharaoh's tyranny. So, Moses confronted Pharaoh by invoking God's Name and demanded for the release of Israel. But Pharaoh was unfazed and made it even worse for the Hebrews. Moses felt betrayed by God and accused Him for having done nothing but caused more harm to fall upon Israel.

1. If anyone is willing and open to share, recount your experience of feeling betrayed, confused, angered, or abandoned by God.
2. How did you handle the experience of betrayal, anger, confusion, and/or abandonment from God?

God responds to Moses' anger, questions, and accusation. God replies by redeclaring His Name, I AM, to Moses. But this time, God reveals His Name as the Redeemer, the Rescuer, and the Advocate of Israel.

3. God as Redeemer means that He is acting as both 1) the Judge who seeks after justice for us and 2) the Brother who is family to us. How does this change your outlook in your own experience of pain and suffering as you live out your Christian faith?

Read John 11:1-44

The Apostle John recounts how Jesus intentionally let his very close friend, Lazarus, die from sickness. Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha, felt betrayed by Jesus (as Moses did by God) for not showing up to heal their brother. Jesus responds to the sisters' distress by declaring His Name: "I AM the Resurrection and the Life."

4. Jesus asks Martha if she believes who He says He is. Amidst her deep grief, Martha was still able to respond, "Yes, Lord; I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." How can we help each other to respond to Jesus in faith amidst our own suffering?
5. What has helped you practically to deal with the trauma of suffering?
6. What does faithful suffering look like when we face our pain under the shadow of Jesus' cross and under the light of His resurrection?
7. How does the promise of the resurrection and eternal life shape the way we live amidst our own suffering and minister to those who are suffering?