



**July 20, 2023**

**Social Time**

**Thanks to those who provided Treats**

**Music**

- ELW 689 Praise and Thanksgiving
- ELW 759 My Faith Looks Up to Thee
- ELW 807 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

**Prayer Requests & Update Prayer List**

**Opening Prayer**

**Bible Study Business**

**Book Discussion – Chapter 1**

Rabbi Kushner wrote this book to address some big questions. Some of the questions raised in this chapter include:

- Is suffering punishment for something people have done?
- Do people get what they deserve?
- Do the wicked eventually get what they deserve?
- Does everything happen for a reason?
- Is suffering God punishing us to teach us a lesson?
- How do you make sense of a senseless accident?
- Is suffering God's way of strengthening our faith?
- Is suffering a loyalty test?
- Is it true that God never sends us more of a burden than we can bear?
- Does God cause our suffering?

Which of these questions resonate with you?

Which of the stories of people's suffering speak to you?

What questions about suffering do you wrestle with?

The author concludes the chapter P. 35

“There may be another approach. Maybe God does not cause our suffering. Maybe it happens for some reason other than the will of God”

**Psalm 121: 1-2**

*“I lift mine eyes to the hills; from where does my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord.”*

Not “My pain comes from the Lord or my tragedy comes from the Lord.”

The author concludes with these questions:

Could it be that God does not cause the bad things that happen to us?

But rather that He stands ready to help them and us cope with our tragedies?

Is “How could God do this to me” the wrong question to ask?

What do you think of this conclusion?

**Birthdays**

**Closing Prayer – Lord’s Prayer**