

Name _____

Unit 4 Preassessment

Common Beliefs about Suffering

Reflect on the statements below, and then complete the following tasks:

- Write an *A* next to each statement with which you agree.
- Write a *D* next to each statement with which you disagree.

- _____ 1. Suffering is necessary for personal growth.
- _____ 2. God wants us to suffer so that we will learn how to be strong and resilient.
- _____ 3. God causes human suffering.
- _____ 4. God allows human suffering but does not directly cause it.
- _____ 5. Jesus had to suffer and die in order to free us from sin.
- _____ 6. Suffering always has a purpose.
- _____ 7. Everything happens for a reason.
- _____ 8. Admitting that you are suffering is a sign of weakness.
- _____ 9. Jesus is always with us when we suffer.
- _____ 10. Christians have an obligation to assist those who are suffering.
- _____ 11. Suffering brings us closer to God.
- _____ 12. Some, but not all, suffering is caused by human sinfulness.
- _____ 13. God's justice is rooted in mercy.
- _____ 14. An "eye for an eye" means that although you should never throw the first punch,
it is morally legitimate to fight evil with evil to win the fight.
- _____ 15. Having people you can talk to somehow makes whatever you're suffering through easier.

After you've responded to all the questions, complete the following additional tasks:

- Circle the one statement with which you *most strongly agree*.
- Place an *X* next to the one statement with which you *most strongly disagree*.

