Common Beliefs about Suffering

Reflect on the statements below. Think about how strongly you agree or disagree with each one. Place a check in front of the statement with which you ***most strongly agree.*** Place an X in front of the statement with which you ***most strongly disagree.***

**1.** \_\_\_\_\_ Suffering is necessary for personal growth.

**2**. \_\_\_\_\_ God wants us to suffer so 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.** \_\_\_\_\_ God caused the suffering and death of Jesus.

**6.** \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus had to suffer and die in order to free us from sin.

**7.** \_\_\_\_\_ Suffering always has a purpose.

**8.** \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is always with us when we suffer.

**9.** \_\_\_\_\_ Because Jesus was God, he didn’t experience suffering in the way we do.

**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.