The Pressure of Pain Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.
A. Text: Job 2.
B. The first argument of the gospel is that God is there.
C. Job gives the heavenly perspective of suffering.
II. In suffering, Satan always aims at getting us to cry out against God.
A. God gives and takes away—it is His right to do so, and He is not unjust in doing so.
B. Job did not forsake God in all of his suffering.
C. Job's wife however gives up her faith and tells Job to do the same.
1. Job responds gently to his wife.
2. His wife's philosophy is that life is about pleasure.
3. Satan's attack is aimed at getting us to be resentful.
III. Job's friends feel like Job is being punished for some sin.
A. They come to comfort him.
B. However, they find it difficult because they believe Job deserves his circumstances.
IV. God has an aim in suffering.
Application questions:
1. How would you respond to someone who says that God cannot be good because of suffering in the world?
2. In what ways have you struggled to walk away from God when you have suffered?
3. What does the response of Job's friends teach us about encouraging people in the midst of suffering?