

Crucial Questions

Why Does God Allow ____ to happen?

CONNECT:

Since the beginning of time, people have asked, “Why does God allow bad things to happen?” When is the last time something made you say, “Why God?”

PREPARE:

When real suffering occurs, philosophical and theological answers are not what we want to hear. We need a real, personal answer. At the heart of our questions, we want a personal answer from God. The ultimate question then becomes, “Can I trust you, God?” Some say their faith helps them, but why can they trust God? How would you explain that kind of faith to someone else?

STUDY AND DISCUSS:

The story of Job covers almost every type of suffering one can have. He loses everything (wealth, business, family, health) except his wife and his life. His friends speak for most of the book. God shows up in chapter 40 and addresses Job and then turns to his friends.

- Read Job 42:7-8. What is charge God has against the friends?
- We want to explain so we can control. We want to control so that we can fix it. How have you seen that in your own life?
- Read Gen. 3:15. What is God promising Adam and Eve?
- Read Philippians 2:5-8. Based on this passage, there are 4 big steps:
 1. Being a human being
 2. Willing servant
 3. Obedient to the will of God
 4. Steps into suffering of the cross
- Why are these so important to understand in relation to our own suffering?

Community Group Discussion Questions

Dan McCartney says, “God knows what it is like to suffer, not just because he sees it in far greater clarity than we, but because he has personally suffered in the most severe way possible...the agony of loss by death, the separation from a beloved...the disruption of his own family.”

- How does that help you trust God in your suffering?
- Three ways to trust God with our suffering:
 1. Trust God and release the need to know and the need to control.
 2. Trust God and don't waste your suffering.
 - Read 1 Peter 1:6-7. How is God using suffering in your life? How is he bringing transformation to your life by his grace and mercy and personal presence? How is he using it to bring himself glory?
 3. Trust God and use your suffering.

“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain” - C.S. Lewis. The next part of that quote isn't as well known, but is really good: “it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world”.
- How have you seen God use your suffering? Has someone in your life used their own suffering to help you?
- How does “suffering well” glorify God?

RESPONSE:

- Suffering isn't something to be flippant about. The world needs Christians who are:
 - Honest about their struggles.
 - Vulnerable about their struggles
 - Humble
- How are you doing on being honest, vulnerable and humble with others about the struggles and sufferings in your own life?
- How were you encouraged or challenged to avoid division at all costs and represent Jesus during these current times?

PRAY

Pray for strength, humility and grace to “suffer well”. Pray for unity among believers.

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