

Sermon: The Loving Creator of a Brutal World

Primary Texts: Genesis 1:26; Judges 6:13; Job 19:7; Psalms 22:1-2; 100:5; Isaiah 45:15; 55:9; Jeremiah 14:9; Nahum 1:7; Matthew 27:46; Luke 18:19; Romans 1:28; 8:28; 1 Peter 4:12; 2 Timothy 1:7

Discussion guide:

- Do you believe God is good? Why or why not?
- Why does God allow suffering?
 - Why shouldn't we believe God causes suffering?
 - Can God be sovereign and allow us to make choices?
 - Why doesn't God want to take away our free will even if it would relieve us of our suffering?
 - Read Romans 8:28 – what does this say about free will?
- Why do you think violence seems to be on the rise?
 - Why is it important to note that it is not a reflection of God's image in us?
 - How is this violence not a new thing in our history?
 - What is the cause of this? (read Romans 1:24-28 (emph v.28))
- What should our reaction be?
 - Why shouldn't we be surprised? (see 1 Peter 4:12)
 - Why shouldn't we be fearful? (see 2 Timothy 1:7)
 - Why shouldn't we be in despair?
 - Why shouldn't we hate?
- How is love God and love people the answer?
- How do we know that God is good?