



**8-WEEK STUDY ON
COMMONLY MISUNDERSTOOD
PHRASES AND BIBLE VERSES**

**WEEK 6
MYSTERIOUS WAYS**



TWISTED



WEEK 6

WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Isaiah 55:8-9, Genesis 50:20 (Joseph)

Secondary text from this week: John 14:6-11; Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 2:9

Read ahead for next week: John 14:15-31

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To determine whether or not the phrase "God works in mysterious ways" is truthful or helpful

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: If you were stranded on a desert island, what three items would you want to have with you, and why?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Have you used the phrase "God works in mysterious ways?" What was the situation?

2. What are the reasons that people often use this phrase? Is it a helpful phrase? Why or why not?

3. Describe a situation in your life that didn't make sense at the time, but in hindsight you can see how God worked through the situation to bring something good out of it.

4. In this week's message, Pastor Doug described three things that other people may hear when we say, "God works in mysterious ways." Which of these do you think is the most destructive, and why?
 - **Don't ask questions.**
 - **God caused this terrible thing to happen, but don't worry it's all part of God's master chess plan.**
 - **Don't bother trying to understand God, because He's mysterious and unknowable.**_____
5. Pastor Doug shared the origin behind this phrase. Look up the lyrics to William Cowper's famous hymn, "God Moves" and discuss the five stanzas. What stands out to you about the lyrics, especially when you consider the story behind them?

6. Look up **John 14:6-11**; **Hebrews 1:3**; and **Colossians 2:9** and discuss what these verses tell us about Jesus.



WEEK 6

PRAY

Pray for each other: Have the group leader or a volunteer pray for the difficult circumstances group members are facing.

Pray on your own: Thank God that He is at work in your life even when life doesn't make sense.

ACTION STEPS

Develop a helpful, Biblically accurate phrase you can use to encourage people when they are facing difficult circumstances (instead of saying *God works in mysterious ways*).

NOTES

