

Why God? Why does God allow Bad things to happen?

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

“16 ‘A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.’ 17 So some of his disciples said to one another, ‘What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father?’” 18 So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” 19 Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? 20 Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. 21 When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. 22 So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.” – John 16:16-22 (ESV)

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” – Romans 5:1-5 (ESV)

“17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (ESV)

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Start Talking: Find a conversation starter for your group. (15 Min)

- Does anyone have a ‘scar’ story? Or an interesting injury that happen to you as a child?
- Do you agree with the saying, “what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger?”

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- Read John 16:16-22. What is Jesus trying to tell them here? What is it that they don’t understand but will later? Why is this important?

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- Many worldviews lead you to sit in the midst of life’s joys anticipating the coming sorrows, while Jesus leads you to sit in the midst of life’s sorrows anticipating the coming joy. What do you think about that?
- How would you answer the question, “Why does a loving God allow bad things to happen?” Why must we use our words carefully here?
- Joseph, Job, and Paul all experienced suffering, yet had a significant encounter with God. How can we best lean into times of suffering?
- How does salvation rescue you from suffering that can truly destroy you?
- How does the pursuit of happiness fall short rather than the pursuit of meaning/purpose as image bearers of God?
- Do you have hope for the ultimate joy that is to come despite living in a sinful world? What makes it hard sometimes to wait for it?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week. (10 Min)

- Think: how can we offer better comfort to those who are suffering?
- Read the conclusion of the story of Joseph in Genesis 50:15-21, or Job, or Paul’s suffering in 1 Corinthians 12 and 2 Corinthians 11.

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. (15 Min)

1. What’s a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
2. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
3. How’s your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (*3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection*)
4. Who is one non-believer that you need to reach out to this week?
5. What’s something you’d like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.