



Week 7- “Where Is God’s Love in all the Hurt”

Throughout this series we have talked about the fact that all of us get hurt, and that hurt falls on our hearts like seeds. If the seeds of hurt germinate and grow they can begin to define who we are and how we see God. Christianity gives us the powerful tool of forgiveness to help us navigate the hurt. As we close this series there is one more idea that we need to talk about when it comes to hurt; a question we often ask, “Where is God’s love in all the hurt?”

1. Have you ever asked the question, “Where is God’s love in all the hurt?” Share with the group about that time.
2. Do you feel like it’s ok to ask this honest question to God? Why or why not?
3. When you get hurt do you tend to turn to God for help or push Him away because you feel like He is responsible for the hurt? Christianity teaches that God is for us. Do you feel that God is for you? Why or why not?
4. Do you think it is possible that maybe you have misplaced the blame on God and pushed away the real help that He wants to give you?

Read Romans 8:18-26

5. Discuss the idea that the hurt we experience is a result of living in a broken world full of broken people.

Read Romans 8:31-39

6. Paul’s answer to the question, “Where is God in all the hurt?” is that God entered into the hurt to bring real help and real hope. Does this truth help you resolve your own questions about God when it comes to the hurt you experience?

In Romans 8:32 Paul asks, “He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

7. Is it hard for you to trust that God is right there with you in the middle of the mess and the hurt? What do you think it is that causes us to not trust His love when our circumstances are a mess and we feel hurt?

8. If we want to know if God is for us all we have to do is look at the cross. When you look at the cross does it help you see that God really does care about what you are going through? How does this help you trust His love?

9. So often we view God’s love as separate from us when things go wrong or when we don’t “do” the right thing. Justin’s picture of God’s love being like those two pieces of wood helps us understand that NOTHING can separate us from His love. How does it make you feel to know that even when you feel like God is not with you that it does not change the truth that He is with you?

10. If you feel like God is far away, will you take the step of trust to give Him your hurt and ask Him to help you trust His love for you?

God did not just say that He loves you, He proved His love by entering into the hurt through Jesus. When you look at the cross you can confidently say that nothing can separate you from the love of God. When life happens and the next crisis hits and you find yourself asking, “Where is God’s love in all the hurt?” you can choose to lean in and trust the God that says “nothing can separate you from my love.” You can confidently know that He is for you and with you in the middle of the mess.