

## **Main Street Church - Life Group Questions**

**Message:** **If God is in Control, why Doesn't He Do Something about all the Evil in the World?**

**Date:** July 26, 2015



### **Connect** : And You Are?

: Hello My Name Is \_\_\_\_\_.

: I've been attending Main Street for \_\_\_\_\_.

: 1 Thing you don't know about me is \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Open with Prayer**

“JESUS – Thank for being greater than evil in this world, and in our own lives. Help us to put our hope more in you as we face the challenges and pain of this world.

### **Sunday Message Feedback** :: What About all the Evil in the World?

**\*Scripture References:** John 11:1-44 (Jesus & Lazarus); John 16:33; Micah 6:8; Romans 8:18-39; Rev.21:4

**What jumped out at you from Sunday's message?**

Which particular point or passage of Scripture most challenged, confused or caught your attention?

What did Jesus say to you this past week through the message?

#### **1. GOOD vs EVIL**

**Have you ever been tricked/fooled by a Counterfeit currency or product?**

**: What was it, why/how were you deceived & how did you feel/respond?**

**Evil is a word we often use but rarely define...how would you define it?**

[eg. Evil is the corruption or perversion of something Good.]

**What is "Evil" the corruption or perversion of then?**

**: How do you determine who/what is the objective/genuine standard of GOOD?**

**: Would you consider the existence of evil as evidence for the existence of God?**

#### **2. Which of the following statements do you believe or struggle with and why?**

**: God is willing, but not able...to deal with evil**

**: God is able, but not willing...**

**: God is neither, willing or able...**

**: God is willing and able to deal with evil**

**\*How do you feel about the statement:**

***God has good reasons for allowing evil even if we don't know or like what they all are.***

3. Which of these alternative options would you agree with or prefer the most, and why?
  - a. God could have not created anything or not people, and there would be no evil.
  - b. God could change everyone's personality so that they cannot sin = ROBOTS.
  - c. God could compensate for people's evil actions through supernatural intervention 100 percent of the time.
  - d. God could judge and remove those who choose to commit evil acts.
  
4. What do you think about the Free Will Defense – that God chose to create the real world with the gift & mystery of *free will*, allowing for the possibility and consequences of evil, but also the beauty and power of love?
  - \*Can you have LOVE without freedom of the will?
  
  - \*What do you think of Ravi Zacharias' response to the question of evil? (video clip)
  
5. It is clear in Scripture (and through the life and teaching of Jesus) that God never promises an easy life in this world (absent of pain, suffering & evil), but that GOD... **HAS DONE Something, IS DOING something, and WILL DO something.**

**What are some examples that you are aware of in these 3 areas of response?**

(from your own life or others, and from the Bible)

: God has done... \_\_\_\_\_

: God is doing... \_\_\_\_\_

: God will... \_\_\_\_\_

6. a. What did you connect with or learn from in the story of Jesus & Lazarus in John 11?
  
- b. How can we as individuals and as a community of believers (the church) practically & spiritually respond to the reality of evil with hope, action and prayer?

## **Application & Prayer**

- a. Is there an area/issue of personal evil that you need to confess and repent of?
  - \*Jesus is faithful & just to forgive us – 1 John 1:9. Confess, Receive His Forgiveness, & Forgive Yourself)
- b. Is there an area/issue that needs healing because of evil you have suffered through life or a specific person/act?
  - \*Share this with Jesus (and with the group if you like) and ask for healing/freedom and the strength to forgive...
- c. Is there an area/issue of evil around us that God is using you (or wants to use you) to bring hope, light, truth, grace & love into through your attitude, words & actions?
  - \*Thank God for the opportunity to partner with Him in this and ask the Holy Spirit to fill and empower you as you engage it with Him.

## Additional Resources

### Books:

*The Reason for God : Belief in an Age of Skepticism*

by Tim Keller

*Why Suffering? Finding Meaning & Comfort When Life Doesn't Make Sense*

by Ravi Zacharias & Vince Vitale

*If God, Why Evil? : A New Way to Think About the Question*

by Norman L. Geisler

*The Problem of Pain*

*Mere Christianity*

*A Grief Observed*

by C.S. Lewis

*Disappointment With God : Three Questions No One Asks Aloud*

*Where is God When it Hurts?*

by Philip Yancey

*Questions of Life*

by Nicky Gumbel

### Message Series:

[How to Get Through What You're Going Through](#)

Saddleback Church – Rick Warren

[Why Do Bad Things Happen?](#) (6 Parts)

Rock Church – Miles McPherson

**YouTube:** Search these speakers regarding this question...

-Ravi Zacharias (RZIM)

-Tim Keller

-Apologetics Canada

- Alpha Course