

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

APOLOGETICS WEEKEND / PROJECT 3:15

Speaker: Jonathan Noyes

Date: Sun. May 1, 2022



Connect

Romans 1:12 - When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.

1. CHECK IN

- a. Share a highlight & a challenge from this past week in your life.
- b. What are you looking forward in the month of May? *Key event, celebration, challenge, change...*
- c. Do you have a reading/devotional plan for this coming week or the month of May?
What are you focusing on in your personal time with God? How can we encourage or pray for you in this area?

2. OPEN UP – 📖 Read [Psalm 19](#). Respond with praise to God and prayer for one another.

Message Discussion

1 Peter 3:15 - *In your hearts revere Christ as Lord.*

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

1. WEEKEND FEEDBACK – PROJECT 3:15

*This past weekend (Sat/Sun) we had the privilege of hearing from [Jonathan Noyes – from Stand To Reason](#). How were you *encouraged, challenged or changed* through the sessions on Saturday or Sunday’s message? Take some time to share your insights and feedback as a group.

2. THE PROBLEM OF EVIL


- a. Have you or someone you know ever wrestled with questions about *the problem of evil*?
- b. In his message on “**The Problem of Evil**” Jon mentioned that evil is “something” but it’s not “some thing.” What did he mean and why is this important?
- c. Why is the *problem of evil* a problem for the *atheist* but not the *theist*?
How is the reality of evil evidence for God, even a Good God?
- d. What are a few of the reasons God might allow evil and suffering (hint: CIPA disease, Joseph, etc.)?
- e. Ultimately, what is God doing about evil and suffering?

3. A GOOD THING

- a. Why might it be a *good thing* that God hasn’t eliminated all the evil in the world? What are the benefits?
- b. Remember C.S. Lewis’ words, “God will invade. But I wonder whether people who ask God to interfere openly and directly in our world quite realise what it will be like when He does. When that happens, it is the end of the world. When the author walks on to the stage the play is over. God is going to invade, all right: but what is the good of saying you are on His side then, when you see the whole natural universe melting away like a dream and something else - something it never entered your head to conceive - comes crashing in; something so beautiful to some of us and so terrible to others that none of us will have any choice left? For this time it will God without disguise; something so overwhelming that it will strike either irresistible love or irresistible horror into every creature. It will be too late then to choose your side. There is no use saying you choose to lie down when it has become impossible to stand up. That will not be the time for choosing; it will be the time when we discover which side we really have chosen, whether we realised it before or not. Now, today, this moment, is our chance to choose the right side. God is holding back to give us that chance. It will not last forever. We must take it or leave it.” – [Mere Christianity](#)

c. When is a time in your life that might have been defined by evil or suffering? Looking back on this time, what might be *one possible reason* God allowed you to go through pain, loss, trials, etc.?

4. IN THIS WORLD

Read  [John 16:33](#), [2 Timothy 3:12](#), [Romans 5:3-4](#), [Romans 8:18-39](#), [1 Peter 5:6-11](#), [Ephesians 6:10-20](#)

- a. How do these scriptures connect with *Christian Apologetics* and the topic of *The Problem of Evil*?
- b. What trials are you suffering right now? Briefly share one or two challenges with the group.
- c. How can the community of God (including our Life Group) help one another in this world?

Prayer

PRAY for One Another – *Break into group of 3-4 or Men & Women.*

Spend a few minutes praying for the struggles, small or big, you've shared with the group today.

May/June

+ Confirm your *Life Group* plans for May & June with one another.

Resources

*Check out more from *Jonathan Noyes* and the *Stand To Reason* Team:

Website & Store: www.str.org -- *Clear-Thinking Christianity*

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/STRvideos

Social Media: www.facebook.com/standtoreason93 www.instagram.com/standtoreason

Spotify – [Stand to Reason Weekly Podcast](#)

*ALPHA Film Series – [Ep.13: How Can I Resist Evil](#)

*Scripture: www.openbible.info/topics/evil www.openbible.info/topics/suffering