

Study Guide Questions

Series: Asking for a Friend

Message: Why Does God Allow Evil and Suffering?

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ENGAGE THE SCRIPTURES

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 3:15 ... in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...

- Has evil or suffering ever caused you to doubt God's goodness or might? Share about your experience, thoughts, & struggles regarding this topic.
- Have you ever seen someone who was suffering extraordinarily but demonstrated extraordinary confidence in God? If so, how did it change the way you think about suffering and faith?
- If you were speaking to an atheist and he used the below argument, how would you respond?
If God is all powerful, he should be able to eliminate evil.
If God is all good, he should want to eliminate evil.
Evil exists.
- The Bible never promises that we will live a life without pain or suffering, yet we blame God and become frustrated with our situation when trials come. **Read Matthew 5:10-12 & John 16:33.** What is your view/perspective on why we experience trials in this life? In what ways do you need to update your views to align with Scripture?
- **Read James 1:2-4 & 1 Peter 1:6-7.** Knowing the purpose of trials, have you ever rejoiced or been joyful when experiencing trials? How does the concept of providing thanks for suffering sit with you?

- **Read Isaiah 43:1-2 & Hebrews 4:14-16.** How do these passages provide you comfort? Does the understanding that Jesus (the Son of God) willingly entered into temptation and suffering, impact the way you approach prayer?
- **Read Genesis 3.** What does this tell us about the origin of sin and the “problem of evil”?
- What role does Satan play and what role does mankind play in perpetuating the “problem of evil”?
- **Read Hebrews 2: 5-18.** What is God’s solution for evil?