

LifeGroup Study SheetAugust 3rd, 2025 – Why Does God Allow Suffering?

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Interact with this statement from C.S. Lewis on the topic of pain. *"Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."* What are your thoughts on his perspective?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Genesis 2:16-17, Romans 5:12, 15-17. Pastor Jeff started the sermon by explaining the several different reasons why God allows suffering. From both Genesis and Romans, we see these explanations from Scripture.

- a. We are created to choose (Gen 2:16)
- b. Our choices have consequences (Gen 2:17)
- c. Sin consequence brought a curse (Rom 5:12)
- d. The only cure is the cross (Rom 5:15-17)

Why is it so important to understand these reasons as to why God allows us to go through different types of suffering? Which one of these points helps you understand your most season of suffering? Which one is the hardest for you to wrap your head around?

Question 2: Read Hebrews 12:7-11, James 1:2-4, 2 Tim 3:12, 2 Cor 12:8-10, 2 Cor 1:3-4. The second part of the sermon focused on answering another question related to suffering. Pastor Jeff said we need to **"recognize why God does not always stop suffering?"** Here are the 5 reasons that were pointed out from Scripture:

- a. Because it could be a consequence of our sin (Heb. 12:7-11)
- b. Because it could be a trial or testing of our faith (James 1:2-4)
- c. Because it could be a result of spiritual warfare (2 Tim. 3:12)
- d. Because it could produce in us spiritual strength (2 Cor. 12:8-10)
- e. Because it could be preparation for a future ministry (2 Cor. 1:3-4)

Have you ever recognized a time in your life where suffering was happening because of your own disobedience and sin? How did you end up recognizing it? In what ways have you seen suffering created in your own life because God was testing your faith to trust Him? How have you seen God us suffering in your life

to produce endurance, strength and perseverance? Have you seen the Lord use a past event of suffering as an opportunity to use that time of your life in a way to minister to someone else?

Question 3: Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Job 3:11-23. The application when talking about a subject like this is very important. Pastor Jeff asked, **“how will we respond Biblically when God allows suffering in our lives?”**

- a. Instead of only looking around, looking within, and looking back – we must learn to look up!
- b. God is ok with our questions, but doesn’t owe us answers
- c. Knowing God is more important than knowing why
- d. Suffering may be a chapter, but is not the end of the story

Have you ever felt during your suffering, that you weren’t allowed to ask God questions related to your suffering? Almost like you weren’t allowed to pour out your heart and thoughts to Him. How does reading Job 3 help you understand that God is not afraid of your questions? How does understanding what Jesus went through help you understand your own suffering? More so, that your suffering will always have a purpose if you allow God to use it?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?