



QUESTION EVERYTHING DNA GUIDE

WEEK 1: HOW CAN A SUPPOSEDLY GOOD GOD ALLOW SUCH EVIL?

DISCOVER (PRE-WORK)

Before and while you read these passages ask the Spirit of God to illuminate your heart and mind and bring conviction and clarity of his truth for your life. Take some time during your own personal study to read through these four key questions:

1. Who is God (what does this passage tell me about God's character)?
2. What Has God Done (how do I see God's character in action here)?
3. Who Am I (how does God's character and action shape how I see myself)?
4. What Do I Do (if I believe 1-3 how would I respond and relate to others)?

Scripture: John 9:1-3, James 1, 1 Peter 1:6-7, 2 Cor. 1:3-4, Genesis 50, esp. v. 19-20

QUESTION: What did you DISCOVER during your study?

NURTURE

Confess out loud to one another areas of personal struggle or unbelief that the Spirit revealed during your personal study.

In light of this week's sermon, consider these questions together:

1. What suffering have you endured? In what ways did it feel unjust?
2. Have you been able to later identify some meaning or benefit from that (or some other) suffering?
3. In the message this week, Justin mentioned the following 11 Biblical descriptions of the purpose of suffering, which ones do you connect to? Which ones don't connect?
 1. Steadfastness - strength to endure, makes you stronger (James 1)
 2. Telos - makes you into the person you're meant to be by stripping away sinful dependence (Matt 19)
 3. Sanctification - it can make you better, purification (1 Peter 1:6,7)

4. Clarity about God and the World - suffering brings focus (Matthew 10:39)
5. My suffering helps someone else - heart transplants and blood transfusions (Gal. 6:2)
6. Allows me to later teach or counsel someone else - (2 Cor. 1:3-4)
7. Consequences of sin - we learn just how insidious and destructive sin is (1 Peter 4:1)
8. Awareness of the fragility and preciousness of life (Deut. 8:3)
9. Glorifying God - (John 9:3)
10. Greater appreciation of the good things in life. (2 Cor. 4:17)
11. God means it for good. (Gen. 50:19-20)

4. Justin argued that Christianity is uniquely equipped to handle the question of suffering because of the death and resurrection of Jesus. How does this truth help you process your suffering?

5. Grieving and Hoping were the action steps from this week's message. Have you grieved your suffering? Have you found hope in God's future?

During this time, let each person share how or where they need to repent and believe the truth of God revealed to them in Jesus. You may need to guide each other to what is true of God and ourselves in light of what Jesus has done. For this week, refer to the different "I am" statements as you identify how you need to repent and believe the gospel of Jesus. For instance, "I have been looking to other sources to be life-giving for me and I see that I need to repent and turn to Jesus who is the life now."

QUESTION: How will you REPENT and BELIEVE the gospel?

ACT

In light of your time together, what steps will you take to act on your new discoveries and affirmed beliefs?

Consider these questions:

1. How will you process that suffering with God this week? What would it look like for you to grieve it with him?
2. If any of the reasons for suffering connected with you above, how will you remember them this week?
3. How will you apply the truth of the cross to your suffering? How can you find peace and comfort in Jesus' sacrifice?
4. Romans 8:18 says, "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."? How does Paul's frame of reference change the way you will think about future suffering?

QUESTION: What will you DO and who will you TELL about what God has done?