



Small Group Discussion
"You Asked For It"
Why Does God Allow Evil
Preached November 11, 2018

Big Idea: "God allows Evil in the world, but we brought it in."

Give a brief example of an event or set of circumstances in his or her life that led to feelings of helplessness or being out of control. As you think back on this incident, what role did God play in your thoughts? Did you pray? Did you pray differently? Were you angry?

Would you say this event strengthened or weakened your confidence in God? Why?

In *The Problem of Pain*, C.S. Lewis writes: *God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.* In your opinion, why is it so easy to factor God out of our lives when things are good, and so difficult to factor him out when things aren't? Why does God almost always become part of the conversation when bad things happen?

Read James 1:2-4. James says that trials test our *faith*, or *confidence in God*. How is a trial a test of our faith?

James says the goal of these tests is "perseverance." The implication is that trials can create *persevering faith* in God. But why trials? Can you think of other ways God could create persevering faith in us?

Respond to this statement. "When it feels like God is allowing something to happen *to* us, it is easy to lose faith. But when we accept that he is doing something *in* us, we are candidates for the grace we need to endure."

If God uses pivotal circumstances to build our faith in him, what should our response be next time life takes us by surprise?