

Growth Group Curriculum

FALL SEMESTER 2022

Questioning Christianity - Week 5 “How could a loving God allow suffering?”

For information on Growth Groups email info@cbclife.org

REVIEW

- 1. Was there anything from this past Sunday’s message that challenged or confused you?**
- 2. Can you think of one thing from Sunday’s sermon that you are likely to remember two weeks from now?**

MY STORY

- 1. Have you ever encountered the objection from Sunday’s sermon?**
- 2. Has your faith ever been shaken by witnessing or experiencing suffering?**

DIGGING DEEPER

- 1. The Bible is filled with the cries of people — including many biblical authors — who are deeply perplexed and baffled by the magnitude and the unjust distribution of instances of evil and suffering. Can you recall some of these?**
 - a. What if anything can these stories teach us about God and His relationship to our suffering?**
 - 2. Over the years, people who try to defend the existence of God have come up with theodicies — good reasons why God allows evil. Read aloud the two most common theodicies below:**
 - a. The Punishment Theodicy. “Because humankind rebelled, the suffering of the world is the deserved punishment for sin.”**
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- b. The Free Will Theodicy. "If God wanted people to freely choose the good, they would have to have been free to choose evil. The greater good of having true children (rather than robots) entails the risk of abuse of free will."**

Split into two groups and assign a theodicy to each group. What is helpful and what is problematic about the theodicy? Regroup after five minutes and share your answers.¹

- 3. Read the following verses (you may want to partner up if your group is large enough) and see if you can decide what these passages might teach us about the role of suffering in our lives.**

**Daniel 4:24 – 37; Psalm 119:67 – 72; Romans 8:18 – 29;
Hebrews 12:1 – 11; 2 Corinthians 1:8 – 9**

Prayer Requests:

Important dates:

- **November 14 at 7pm CORE Night**

¹ Keller, Timothy . The Reason for God Discussion Guide

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- **November 20 - Fall Growth Group Semester ends.**
 - **Dec 4 - "Christmas in the Quad" Advent Party.**
 - **Saturday 12/24 at 3pm Christmas Eve Service - (no service Christmas day)**
 - **January 8th Discover the Bible 101 begins.**
 - **January 29 - Winter Growth Group Semester begins.**