

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1.7.26

“Why Did God Let It Happen?”

Lesson Summary:

Tonight, guest speakers Michael & Emily Thiel kicked off our mini-series “Ever Wonder Why” by sharing their personal story about pain and suffering and addressing the big question, “Why did God let this happen?”. The Bible is honest about pain and invites us to talk to God when life hurts. Suffering exists because the world is broken by sin, but it does not mean God is punishing us or that He has stopped being good or in control. Most importantly, it points to Jesus, who understands our pain, suffered for us, stays with us in hard times, and promises hope and healing in the future.

Key Points:

Key Point: The Bible does not AVOID pain and suffering.

- SUFFERING in general exists because of SIN
- God is both GOOD and in CONTROL
- Suffering does NOT mean you are being PUNISHED
- Suffering is a MYSTERY, but God SHOWS UP
 - Jesus is your ANSWER to the mystery
- God USES your suffering
- God will WIPE AWAY every tear

Discussion Questions:

1. Was there anything Michael or Emily Thiel said that was confusing or didn't make sense to you? If so, what was it?
2. When something hard happens in your life, who or what do you usually blame first—and why?

3. What is one difficult thing you're going through right now that you haven't talked to God about yet? What might it look like to be honest with Him about it?
4. Have you ever thought your suffering was a punishment from God? What truth from the Bible challenges that idea?
5. How does knowing that God can be both good and in control—even when bad things happen—change the way you see your situation?
6. When you don't get answers to your "why" questions, what helps you trust God anyway—or what makes that hard?
7. How does Jesus' suffering help you feel understood in your own pain?
8. Can you think of a way God might use a hard experience in your life to grow your faith, character, or hope over time?

