



Discipleship DISCUSSION

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: SCARY WORLD EVENTS

The United States experienced violence in multiple ways this week, from random violence to an assassination to school shootings to the 9/11 anniversary. With 24/7 news and social media, kids are aware of these events, whether directly or through the emotional reactions of adults and peers. Many saw graphic images or heard conflicting commentary, which can increase fear, anxiety, or confusion. Some may even feel numb as scary events become common.

Point to Jesus

Our kids need to hear the hope of Jesus in the turmoil of these world events. We live in a fallen world, broken by sin. This brokenness is why Jesus came and He is the only hope. Government, schools and news media can't truly rescue us. Only Jesus. And one day, He will return and make all things new again.

For Parents:

- Sometimes our tendency is to avoid tough topics to protect kids' innocence. But it is much better that they hear from you first (and often) than only from friends on the playground.
- Encourage kids to talk to you about what they are seeing or hearing. Ask questions and invite them to share their opinions and feelings.
- Limit 24/7 news coverage. Watching violent images over and over is not healthy for kids (or adults either!)
- Kids may worry about safety. Because we live in a broken world, we can't promise violence will never affect them. We can say it's unlikely, discuss "what-ifs" appropriately, and remind them God is always with them in every situation.

For Leaders:

- As appropriate, allow kids to talk about their reactions to the events this week. Listen to their concerns and point them toward our God, who is bigger than everything that comes against us.
- Discourage kids from discussing details at church about what they saw.
- Avoid political conversations. Instead, point the discussion towards a Gospel conversation.
- Remember that you don't need to try to have all the answers—sometimes just sit with kids in their sadness so they know they're not alone.



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Here's how you can discuss this at home or in your ministry:

Say: The news has shown some scary things that happened in our world this week.

Discuss: When kids your age hear about scary or violent things in our world, what are some feelings they might feel?

Discuss: What do you think God has to say about that?

Say: Some terrible things happened in our world this week. It is normal to feel scared, sad, or confused. This is not how God created the world to be. Our world is broken by sin and we see that brokenness every day. But we can trust God is in control. He is not surprised by the evil in our world. He is with us, and Romans 8:28 reminds us He uses all things, even terrible tragedies, for good in His perfect plan. Our world's only true hope is found in Jesus. He is the One who came to rescue us from sin. One day He will return and make all things new. Revelation 21:4 says: *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.* In the meantime, we can pray for those who are hurting. We can look for ways to help. Most importantly, we can look for ways to share the hope of Jesus with those around us.