



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: The book of Job

The Weight of our Words: Everything Happens for a Reason

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

How does a sentiment like “Everything Happens for a Reason” fall short and hollow in a time of crisis, doubt or tragedy? Why does this kind of sentiment fail to adequately explain God’s plans and purposes?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

In what way has hardship, pain, suffering – in the long run been a “good teacher” for you?

How have you reconciled pain, suffering and tragedy in life with God who is good, loving and just?

Read Romans 8:28 together!

What is it that God is causing to work together for good? In what way is Paul’s idea that God can bring good out of what is terrible or hurtful, rather than that God ordains the terrible or hurtful an important distinction?

In what way can you begin to say, do something different in a situation where someone is sharing something difficult, hurtful or tragic than simply saying “Everything happens for a reason?”

Dave summarized the book of Job through the lens of the 4 friends that tried to comfort Job in his pain and tragedy. Their view of God and suffering were as follows:

Everything that happens in the world operates by a strict principle of justice.

....If you are wise and good, God rewards you

....If you are evil, unwise and sinful, God will punish you

Job refuses to accept these answers because either God doesn’t rule the world by this scale of justice (since Job knows he has been good, innocent and righteous) or God is unjust!

1. Why does Job refuse to live by the slogans, principles, cliché’s of his friends?
2. In what way can we miss out on “seeing God” by settling for easy answers to complex questions?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Read Job 38-42]

Chapter 38 -40 is God’s response to Job and his friends accusations.

What is significant about God's questions to Job?

What are the implications of God's questions to Job?

Chapters 40:15-41 God uses the imagery of two beasts as an illustration

What is significant about the beasts; Leviathan and Behemoth?

What are the implications of the two beasts?

Chapter 41 is Job's response

Why is Job humbled and repentant?

How is 42:15 a turning point for Job? In what way does God appearing to Job in order to answer his question related to the idea that God has appeared to us in Christ?

In what way is John 16:33 a much better answer to our pain, suffering and hurt?

How can you better grieve with those who grieve and point people to Jesus in their pain?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?