



Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions

Topic: *Where Is God in the Midst of Suffering?*

Service Date: January 28, 2024

Text: Job 1:1-12

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

Getting Started

- Take a moment to read the text Job 1:1-12. How would you have responded if you were Job?
- If someone was to ask you, "Where is God in the midst of suffering?", how would you respond?

Sermon Discussion

- One of Tri-Village's values is "Transparency". Why do you think it's so difficult for individuals to share when they are going through a difficult season? Are there ways to change this or encourage more transparency (i.e. sharing in a small group, giving more sacrificially even though you don't feel like it, etc.)?
- Paul discussed in his sermon staying rooted in our faith even during difficult times. You have seen other people (or maybe yourself) at times in life walk away from their faith in difficult times. Why do you think some people remain faithful during these times while others don't?
- Why is it so difficult to stay faithful to Christ when things aren't going well? Are there things you've done during those difficult times that have allowed your faith to not just endure the hardship but thrive in the midst of it?
- Another one of Tri-Village's values is "Stories of Life Change". For individuals who have suffered in life, how would you encourage them to use their stories of difficult circumstances to share their faith?

- A concept noted in the sermon was the “no exemption clause”. How would you explain it to a non-Christian or new Christian who expresses why bad things are happening to you if you worship a God who loves you?
- Paul discussed God allowing suffering for various reasons. Can you recall a time when you had suffering in your life and God allowed something good to come out of it?
- Quote from the sermon- “A rooted faith is holding on when you don’t understand. A rooted faith is worshiping when you want to. A rooted faith is holding your tongue when you are angry and feel like cursing. A rooted faith is trusting that though circumstances are painful now, there is still a God in heaven Who is going to ultimately make all things right one day!” If you knew that your suffering in your life would never end but is being done so God can refine you and the people around you for eternity, how does this change your perspective?

Resources

Book- *Why: Answers to Weather the Storms of Life* by Vernon Brewer

Book- *A Grief Observed* by C.S. Lewis

Book- *Faith Crisis: What Faith Isn’t and Why It Doesn’t Always Do What You Want* by Ron Dunn

Book- *If God Should Choose* by Jim Bowers

Have you or someone in your group experienced a Story of Life Change?

We’d love to hear about it! In fact, one of Tri-Village’s values is “Stories of Life Change”. Visit tri-village.org/yourstory and share how God worked.