



Your *group* matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

You have your own late night talk show, who do you invite as your first guest?

1. Pastor Tom indicated that God uses pain to get our attention (see Kreeft and C.S. Lewis quotes), develop our character (**Romans 5:3**, **Hebrews 5:8** and Strobel quote), teach and direct us (**Hebrews 12:10-11**), and produce good ends (**Romans 8:28**, **Genesis 50:20**). Describe a time you've seen Him do this with your pain.
2. "God will one day judge evil and end suffering. Delaying His final judgment is evidence of His love." (See **2 Peter 3:9**.) How do these truths encourage you as you go through pain/see others suffering and how will God's great love compel you to tell others about Him?
3. Read **2 Corinthians 11:23-27**, **4:17**, **Romans 8:18**, and **1 Corinthians 2:9**. How do these passages help put pain and suffering into perspective for you? Explain.
4. Pastor Tom stated, "We choose whether our pain makes us bitter or better." When God promises to be with us, how can we keep from becoming bitter in our suffering or when witnessing the suffering of those we love? (See **Isaiah 43:1-3a**, **John 16:33**, **Hebrews 13:5**, and **Psalms 118:5-7a**.)
5. Chapter 7 of *Is God Real?* dealt with the issue of suffering. What takeaways did you find that will help you as you encounter this objection from those who have used it as a roadblock to saying "YES!" to Jesus?

WEEKLY READING

Before you attend your small group, read Chapter 7 (pages 137-161) of *Is God Real?*

Not too late to join a small group! Use the GroupFinder at MYRC.CHURCH/GROUPFINDER!



RIVERSIDE CHURCH



IS GOD REAL?

MESSAGE NOTES

"The Biggest Objection" (Part 2)

Oct 13, 2024 • Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH



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Oct 13, 2024
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MESSAGE NOTES

Is God real?

It's the _____ important question of life that is googled 200 times a second.

If God is real and _____, why is there suffering?

Note **John 16:33**

In this world we all experience _____ and we don't like it.

Brief review from Part 1:

1. This Is Not _____.
2. God Isn't the _____ of Evil and Suffering.
3. While Suffering Isn't Good, Because God is God, He Can and Does Use It to _____ Good.

God can and does use pain to:

- A. Get our _____ and draw us to Himself - *The meaning and purpose of suffering in history is that it leads to _____.* Only after suffering, only after disaster does Israel, do nations, do individuals turn back to God. (Kreeft)
God whispers to us in our pleasures, He speaks to us in our conscience, but He shouts to us in our pain. It is His _____ to rouse a deaf world. (C. S. Lewis)
- B. Develop our _____ and make us more like Jesus (note **Romans 5:3** and **Hebrews 5:8**). *God can use _____... to strengthen our commitment to Him, to force us to depend on grace, to bind us together with other believers, to produce the sermon, to foster sensitivity, to discipline our minds, to spend our time wisely, to stretch our hope, to cause us to know Christ better and deeper, to make us long for truth, to lead us to repentance from sin, to teach us to give thanks in times of sorrow, to increase our faith, to strengthen our character, and on and on and on.* (Strobel)

- C. Teach and _____ us the right direction to take (note **Hebrews 12:10-11**).
- D. Use negative circumstances to produce _____ (note **Romans 8:28** and **Genesis 50:20**).

4. God Will One Day Judge _____ and End Suffering. (Note **2 Peter 3:9**)

Delaying His final judgment is evidence of His _____.

5. Our Suffering Now _____ in Comparison to the Good God Has Planned for His Followers.
(Note **2 Corinthians 11:23-27; 4:17; Romans 8:18, 1 Corinthians 2:9**)
6. We _____ Whether Our Pain Makes Us Bitter or Better.
7. God Promises _____ in Our Pain.
(Note **Isaiah 43:1-3a; John 16:33; Hebrews 13:5; Psalm 118:5-7a**)

If we will let God, if we will invite Him into our lives, into our pain and struggles, He promises He will be with us.

So is God real?:

- He will hold us close to His great heart and He will help us remember that evil and suffering are temporary and don't have the final word.
- Note **Psalm 34:18**

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!
App: Message Notes/Connect Card Or: **MYRC.LINK/CONNECT**



SMALL GROUP
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MESSAGE NOTES

"The Biggest Objection" (Part 2)

Oct 13, 2024
Pastor Tom Lundeen

Is God real?

It's the most important question of life that is googled 200 times a second. If God is real and good, why is there suffering?

Note **John 16:33**

In this world we all experience trouble and we don't like it. Brief review from Part 1:

1. This Is Not Heaven
2. God Isn't the Originator of Evil and Suffering
3. While Suffering Isn't Good, Because God is God, He Can and Does Use It to Accomplish Good

God can and does use pain to:

- A. Get our attention and draw us to Himself - *The meaning and purpose of suffering in history is that it leads to repentance. Only after suffering, only after disaster does Israel, do nations, do individuals turn back to God.* (Kreeft)
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- B. Develop our character and make us more like Jesus (note **Romans 5:3** and **Hebrews 5:8**). *God can use suffering...to strengthen our commitment to Him, to force us to depend on grace, to bind us together with other believers, to produce the sermon, to foster sensitivity, to discipline our minds, to spend our time wisely, to stretch our hope, to cause us to know Christ better and deeper, to make us long for truth, to lead us to repentance from sin, to teach us to give thanks in times of sorrow, to increase our faith, to strengthen our character, and on and on and on.* (Strobel)

- C. Teach and show us the right direction to take (note **Hebrews 12:10-11**).
- D. Use negative circumstances to produce good ends (note **Romans 8:28** and **Genesis 50:20**).

4. God Will One Day Judge Evil and End Suffering (Note **2 Peter 3:9**)

Delaying His final judgment is evidence of His love.

5. Our Suffering Now Pales in Comparison to the Good God Has Planned for His Followers (Note **2 Corinthians 11:23-27; 4:17; Romans 8:18, 1 Corinthians 2:9**)

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7. God Promises to Be With Us in Our Pain (Note **Isaiah 43:1-3a; John 16:33; Hebrews 13:5; Psalm 118:5-7a**)

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