

MESSAGE NOTES

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

Why Does God Allow Suffering?

The Plan: What Went Wrong?

1. Moral evil.
2. Natural evil.

God's Purpose in Suffering

1. To test the strength of our faith.
2. To produce humility.
3. To give us kingdom purpose.
4. To move our focus from the temporal to the eternal.

WHAT IS GOD ASKING ME TO DO?



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why Does God Allow Suffering?

Jesse Smith • April 23, 2017

In our new series, “You Asked for It,” we are tackling some tough questions about faith that have been posed by people who attended our Easter worship services. This week we focus on the question, “Why Does God Allow Suffering?”

1. During worship on Sunday we saw a short video interview with Pastor Dan and Denise Wade. A longer version of that video is available on YouTube.com (search for River City Christian) or on RightNow Media in the River City Library. Please view this video as a group as an introduction to your discussion.
2. Jesse mentioned that God created the world to be perfect and without sin. However, He also created humans with free will, the ability to accept or reject Him. As humans, we abused our free will and rejected God and His commands. In what ways do you see the result of humanity’s rebellion affecting our world today?

Read 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-13; John 16:33

3. According to these passages, Christians should expect to experience some suffering and trials in their lives. Why do you think difficulties are part of the Christian life? Why is it so difficult to trust God in the midst of our suffering?

Read James 1:2-4; 2 Corinthians 4:14-18; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Romans 3:3-5; Romans 8:18, 28

4. These verses tell us that suffering is a gift from God. While we do not naturally desire suffering, God can use it to transform and mature us. What do these passages say about how God wants us to respond when suffering enters our lives?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Hebrews 2:18

5. In what ways have you seen the Lord use suffering in your life to help you grow in your faith? Do you know someone whose faith has been strengthened by a difficult trial or time of suffering?
6. Are you going through any trials right now? Spend some time praying for the suffering and trials that your group members are currently facing.