

# CLARITY

CLARIFYING QUESTIONS ABOUT FAITH

## WEEK 3: IF GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL WHY IS THERE SUFFERING?

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

### OPENING QUESTIONS

(Choose the one(s) that will best get your group talking on this topic)

- -What is the saddest story you've heard in the news recently?
- "When it rains it pours"--to what scenario in your life might that saying apply to?
- What personal tragedy do you fear the most?

Epicurus, an Ancient Greek philosopher described it this way:

*Either God wants to abolish evil, and cannot; or he can, but does not want to; or he cannot and does not want to. If he can, and does not want to, he is wicked. But, if God both can and wants to abolish evil, then how come there is evil in the world?*

- Respond to this quote. What is most difficult for you when it comes to the problem of evil and suffering?

**SERMON REFLECTIONS**--Sermon from Sunday, September 24, 2017

(Audio and video available at [purposechurch.com](http://purposechurch.com)--Suggestion: bring copies of the sermon outline to look at when you discuss)

- What was most helpful to you?
- What challenged you?
- What encouraged you?

### DIGGING INTO DISCUSSION

The story of Job is one of the oldest in the Bible. Job was a devout believer in God and was greatly blessed. His fortune did not last, however. Satan was allowed to test Job's faith by a series of tragedies. Incredibly, Job reacts with praising God instead of cursing him. Then Satan afflicts Job even more.

## **Read Job 1:13-22; 2:7-10**

- If you lost everything and everyone in a day, how would you react? What would be your biggest question?
- How can you relate to this story most at this time in your life?
- What does this story demonstrate about Satan?
- What in Job's response strikes you as most extraordinary?
- How could Job make such strong statements of faith (Job 1:21, 2:10) after being struck by such tragedies?
- If no evil can happen to man apart from God's tacit permission, what problems does that raise for you?

## **Read Genesis 3:1-10**

Is it more loving for God to create a world where love is possible or for him to create a world where love is impossible? A loving God would create a world where love is possible... But in that world there must also be the possibility of rejecting His love.

J. Warner Wallace

- How does this passage help answer this week's question?
- When, how, and why did suffering enter the story of the world?

## **Hebrews 12:2-3**

- What practical teaching do we get in these verses to help in dealing with suffering?

## **LIVE IT OUT**

- What is the most difficult thing you are going through right now in your life?

## **Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

- How is it that Paul can call the struggles "light and momentary"?
- How do these verses help you cope with your present struggles?
- How can God use this in your life?
- How can the group support you and pray for you?
- Who is someone in your oikos that you feel led to share something from this discussion?
  
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**See the Suggested Resources found at [purposechurch.com/clarity](http://purposechurch.com/clarity)**

Here are some chapters from these resources that focus on this week's topic

Stealing from God: Chapter 5--Does Evil Disprove Atheism?

I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be An Atheist: Appendix 1:If God, Why Evil?

The Case For Faith: Objection #1--Since Evil and Suffering Exist, a Loving God Cannot

77 FAQ's About God and The Bible

The Reason for God: Chapter 2--How Could a Good God Allow Suffering?eri

Walking With God Through Pain & Suffering