

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Q&A: Bible Answers for Life's Questions

November 6, 2022



1. How often in your life have you wrestled with today's big question of why bad things happen to good people, or why God allows terrible things to continue to occur, why didn't he answer my prayers?
2. When you have thought about that particular question, has it been more like a wrestling match or an intellectual debate?

Can you think of any instances in the Bible where a person dealt with that question? (Jacob in Genesis 32, David in multiple Psalms, Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, Paul in asking God to take away his thorn in the flesh)

What is the emotional intensity when a person tackles that question?

3. As explained in the sermon, the world was perfect in the beginning. Can you think of things in creation that still echo that original perfection? (i.e., what amazing things about the human body or the natural world make you stop and marvel at God's perfect creativity?)
4. Read Genesis 3:1-6. Name a few reasons why this sin was so egregious and represented more than simply eating something they weren't supposed to touch.
5. Read Matthew 26:39-42. Did Jesus have free will? What did he do with his free will?

Read Galatians 5:13-15. How are we tempted to use our freedom to indulge our sinful nature?

Is there a relationship between freedom and responsibility?

6. Read John 16:33 and Philippians 4:4-7. What do these verses say about how the presence of Jesus gives peace? How is it an interactive peace?
7. Read Romans 12:9-21. List some practical ways these verses suggest we ought to be there for others to help them get through the tough times.
8. Read Psalm 145:8, Joel 2:13, James 5:11, and Revelation 21:1-4. How does knowing God's eternal (and consistent!) nature, as well as his eternal end game, help us through the difficult times?