



## WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?

**Note to the Host:** *Thanks for leading your group, creating community, and caring for your people! Remember, this is your group, and you have the freedom to navigate the conversation that best fits your group's dynamic. People come first!*

### ICEBREAKER:

Accidents Happen: Tell us about some type of accident you've had, or have been involved in.

### TALK IT OVER:

*These questions are based off the sermon that took place on Sunday. Feel free to revisit any of the scripture that was discussed in the message. Answer as many questions as your time allows; don't feel pressed to get through them all!*

1. What examples of misfortune and evil in our world are those you'd like to see God restrain, curtail or just stop from happening?
2. The Bible teaches that God's eye is on the righteous and his ear is attentive to their prayer. How often do you think God changes the normal odds of this world for the righteous? Every hour, day, week, month or year? (or is his reward restricted to heaven)? Explain your thinking.
3. We live in a fallen world. Genesis 3:17-19 (because of Adam and Eve's sin...) *Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground since from it you were taken from dust you are and to dust you will return.*

What is your understanding of what Adam and Eve were like and what life was like for them in the Garden of Eden before their fall?

4. The odds of misfortune tend to be random in this world (for many reasons). John 9:1-3 (Before Jesus heals this blind man) *As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Neither this man nor his parents sinned, said Jesus.*
  - a) Why do you think the disciples assumed misfortune was a sign of God's punishment for sin?

- b) Likewise, we too have the tendency to admire and look up to people who are wealthy and physically attractive, and look down on those who are poor and unattractive. What are the things that cause us to view people that way?
  - c) Instead, how would Jesus have us assess the people in our world?
5. People tend to believe tragedy is just an inevitable part of our world – until it happens to them (or someone they love). What are some of the reasons for this? Why is it that people never question the justice of God until something bad happens to them?
6. John 16:33 I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. So in summary: if someone asks how God could let bad things happen to good people - how could we respond and why?

## PRAYER:

*Please don't stress about the time of prayer, pray however your group feels comfortable. This can either be one person pray, or you can go in a circle and have each person pray a few sentences. Be sure to change it up so your prayer time stays fresh in your group!*

- Make sure that everyone has a chance to share!
- Encourage all praise reports! Celebrate what God has done!
- Have someone record and distribute the requests to your group, to pray over throughout the week.

**Week #5, God, We Need to Talk, March 3, 2024**