



OPEN

Go around and let everyone answer on the follow two question...

What is something good you can only get through suffering?

DIG

What are some of the sources of trouble and suffering?

Why do some people blame God for the problems in this world?

Read Isaiah 40.26-28

Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God"? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

This passage asks several questions intended to provoke a response that reminds us of God's sovereignty and history of faithfulness.

Why do instances of injustice or tragedy cause some people to forget the past faithfulness of God?

Often our troubles come from our choices or the choices of others.

Why do you think God doesn't just shield us from the effects of those choices?

The writer asks why Israel thinks that God doesn't know or doesn't care about their troubles but are reminded that He works in His time.

What is the most challenging part of waiting for God's intervention or resolution during troubles?

What is our spiritual responsibility during during times of trials and injustice?

APPLY

God doesn't create evil but He does use it to bring blessings while the enemy tries to use it to our detriment. The difference is often the choices we make during those dark times.

What choices can you make to ensure you receive God's blessings during times of trouble?

In all times it is so important to keep a robust prayer life but especially so in times of trouble. Close in a time of prayer for God's continued faithfulness during trying times.

-KTW

Leaders

Big Idea

Much of the suffering we endure is brought upon by our own sinfulness. God gave us freedom of will, and we sometimes use that freedom to hurt ourselves and others. If an evil person harms a good person, that's not God's fault. That's the price of free will. But, God will make all things right, in His time and in His way.

Special Considerations

You may likely be conducting your LIFE Group meetings via video in an online setting during this time. While it might feel less personal than an in-home meeting, this could actually be a great time for your group to renew its concern for each other by making special efforts to connect throughout the week. Consider sending out prayer requests, well-wishes, or updated via text or email during the week. Likewise, your group might consider adding a brief, mid-week video conference just to pray and check in.

Group Discussion Reminder

Our LIFE Groups are a great place to pour out the love we share into the lives of others. We can't keep this love and community to ourselves. Who do you know that might benefit from being part of your group? Share those names, pray for them, and ask God to give you the courage to talk to them about visiting your group.