

B I G Q U E S T I O N S

G O D , L I F E & H O W T H E T W O C O L L I D E

Date: April 17/18, 2010

Weekly Topic: Why do bad things happen to good people?

Teaching Pastor: John Fuller, Senior Pastor

Introduction

God has a perfect perspective. He sees our lives, our joys and our trials with perfect vision. God is near us, celebrating and mourning with us in the midst of our joys and sorrows. When we face difficult circumstances, or heartache, it seems impossible for us to understand why bad things happen. But with God's help, we can respond to life's heartaches, assured that God is near and that He grieves with us.

Discussion

Recall a time when you have asked or been asked a "big question," What was the question and what was it like to respond to the question? What makes big questions difficult to talk about?

As a group, read Job 42:1-6 and discuss Job's response to God. What does Job say about God's character in this passage? (If it's helpful, review Job 38-41.) What stands out to you in this passage?

How can suffering and daily life obscure your view of God's goodness? Discuss how you can encourage each other to speak honestly about personal heartaches with others and God.

Job says that "My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you." (Job 42:5) Can you think of a time when you saw and experienced God in such a personal way? Or how do you long to see God this week?

Think about it

Revelation 21:2-4 describes the new heaven and earth:

"I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the order of things has passed away.'"

Are you grieving or in pain? God longs to comfort you, wiping away every tear from your eyes. Where in your life do you need to sense God's comfort? Or how can you help a loved one sense God's comforting presence?

Do something

Maybe your circumstances or the pain of others has caused you to resent God. Take a step to speak honestly to Him about your concerns. Begin by asking God to mourn with you.

Read John 17:21 and recall Jesus' suffering on our behalf. Consider how Jesus is able to comfort those who mourn and suffer.

If you know someone who is wrestling with big questions, how can you come along side them this week? Take time to pray for this person each day this week.