



STUDY GUIDE

THE PURSUIT OF PURPOSE 05.07.2017

[set up]

What has been one of the most disturbing headlines you have seen in recent years? For the more transparent group... what has been one of the most difficult experiences that you have encountered?

How did that headline or experience shake or shape your faith?

[digging deeper]

Whenever the topic of God comes up, especially when having a spiritual discussion or debate, eventually the problem of evil surfaces. Right now, if you were asked something like, "If God is so loving, then why does He allow bad things to happen to good people?", how would you answer?

Read this article and watch these videos.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/God-allow-evil.html>

Ravi Zacharias interview on the problem of evil (under 6 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAm8iK8VhV0>

Tim Keller interview on the problem of evil (under 8 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkn5lfutSrY>

After reading the article and viewing the videos, how would you change the way you answered the question above?

In this week's message in Ecclesiastes, the Author of Ecclesiastes was wrestling with more of the "evils under the sun" that he observed. After reading or skimming Ecclesiastes chapters 4-6, list some of the verses and observations in life that bothered the "Teacher."

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Looking at the list you made, which of his observations do you also greatly struggle to see or even personally experience? If it is not listed, feel free to add your own.

How does your faith in Christ help resolve this struggle for you or at least address it? Do any specific verses come to mind?

When processing how to address bad experiences in this life, what are the key instructions or insights from the following verses? (In your LifeGroup, you can divide and conquer this list and then present your thoughts and findings.)

Eccl. 3:16-17 - _____

Eccl. 5:1-7 - _____

Eccl. 6:10 - _____

How can we strengthen our answer to the question of why there is evil in this world? How has this lesson helped you or changed what you would say or do if asked the same question from earlier?

Was there anything else from the message this last weekend that impacted you?

Here are some additional verses if you want to study/explore further:

Isaiah 61:1-2

1 Peter. 1:6-7

Psalms 145:20

2 Peter 2:9

Matt. 13:24-30

[living it out]

Who do you need to pray for and then engage in conversation about Christ in light of what you have learned? (Especially someone in your LifeHouse circle)

Is there an area of your life where you need to surrender more to God and trust Him with regards to the difficulties in your life? (Feel free to share with group if comfortable.)

Pray for an area of oppression or injustice that grips your heart.