

Note to Leaders: Every Small Group is Different. Don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group

INTRODUCTION

What should the people of God make of suffering, injustice, and evil in human experience? Philosophers and theologians call this quandary the “problem of evil.” Psalms 73 addresses this problem in an honest way. The problem of evil arises in the tension between two basic affirmations that believers make: (1) our world was created by a loving, intelligent, and powerful God, but (2) the world is filled with pain, sickness, and wickedness. A skeptic or unbeliever insists these two things are incompatible and contradictory.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways have you heard the “problem of evil” raised from friends and family – perhaps during severe illness, when a tragic death occurred, etc? Why do you think it is so easy to “blame God” for everything painful, tragic, and evil that happens in our world?
2. Read Red Psalm 73 aloud and then respond to the following questions:
 - a. In your oral reading, when did you hear the clear change of tone from bright confidence to dark & troubled and finally, confidence again?
 - b. Can you testify to your own personal time when bright faith moved through a similar progression?
 - c. Read through Asaph's description of life's injustices in verses 4-14. What is there about a time of struggle in faith that tends to magnify the good fortune of others – including wicked people? What is the psychological-spiritual state of mind that closes in during dark days?
 - d. When is the critical turn made? Why do you think that is? How have you dealt with your problems with doubt?
 - e. What were Asaph's 2 major mistakes? (v.17-27)
 - f.
3. What are some personal challenges you face to delighting and meditating on God's Word?
4. What personal benefits have you found from spending time in God's Word?

MOVING FORWARD

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

If you have everything else in life but you don't have God, you are indescribably poor. But If you have nothing else in life but you have God, you are indescribably wealthy.