

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Explore God

Week of January 26, 2019

Additional questions for Week 3: Why Does God Allow Pain and Suffering?

(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NIV)

Instruction:

Discussion Group leaders should preview the videos and questions provided through exploreGod.com as well as these “additional questions.” With your unique group in mind, leaders should pick and choose which elements meet the needs of their group best.

Guide: <https://my.exploreGod.com/resources/facilitators-guide-7-big-questions>

Video #1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCY8UKeQ5ek&feature=youtu.be>

Video #2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjcpW_kPYq0&feature=youtu.be

Read the following passage:

⁷ To keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NIV)

Questions:

1. Who gave Paul his “thorn in the flesh?” Is this the cause of all suffering?
2. Can you think of a “thorn in the flesh” that you are suffering with? If you are willing, tell the group.
3. What can we learn about prayer from this passage.
4. How did God use the “thorn in the flesh” in Paul’s life?
5. Can you think of a time that God used a hardship to grow you spiritually? If so, tell the group about it.
6. Paul claims to “delight” in trials. Is it realistic for us to strive to find joy in our hardships? If so, how?