

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❖ God felt it was worth it to allow suffering & evil in the world to produce persons. Do you think it was worth it? Why? Do you think the “average Joe” thinks it was worth it?
- ❖ Is there a new idea about pain & suffering in the world that you got from the “Perspectives” section of the message? Which of these do you find most helpful to remember in dealing with our world of hurt?
- ❖ What’s the most powerful example you’ve seen of God redeeming evil and pain in someone’s life for a good purpose?
- ❖ Steve identified four different types of pain we can experience. Did these make sense to you, or is there one you wish you understood better? Do they raise new questions for you about understanding and interpreting painful experiences in your life or others you care about?
- ❖ Of the four practical things to remember in our hurt, which is most helpful for you personally? Which is the hardest for you to practice? What place does a small group or a network of friends & family play in how God helps us through our difficulties to grow?
- ❖ Notice again the scriptures used in this message. Is there one you particularly sense God speaking to your heart in your current life experience? How could your group pray for or support you in seeking to practice these truths in your life?

Bible Versions used: **KJV**-King James; **NKJV**-New King James; **NIV**-New International; **NCV**-New Century; **TLB**-Living Bible; **NLT**-New Living Translation; **Msg**-The Message; **GW**-God's Word; **TEV**-Today's English; **CEV**-Contemporary English; **NAS** - New American Standard; **NJB**-New Jerusalem Bible; **HCSB**-Holman Christian Standard; **Phi**-Phillips Translation; **Amp**-Amplified Bible; **NRSV**-New Revised Standard

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Tears

WHERE IS GOD WHEN IT HURTS?



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What in the World is God Doing?

Psalm 56:8 (NLT) “You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.”

Hebrews 2:10-11 (CEV) Everything belongs to God, and all things were created by his power. So God did the right thing when he made Jesus perfect by suffering, as Jesus led many of God's children to be saved and to share in his glory. Jesus and the people he makes holy all belong to the same family.

Perspectives on our pain & suffering

☛ God desired _____
 _____.

☛ God accepted _____
 _____.

☛ God chose _____ on
 _____.

✓ P _____ or _____
 _____?

Isaiah 57:18 (NLT) “I have seen what they do, but I will heal them anyway! I will lead them and comfort those who mourn.”

☛ God works _____ the fallen.

☛ God uses _____ evil &
 suffering _____.

What to realize about pain

☛ There's _____ pain.

☛ There can be _____ pain!

Psalm 89:31-32 (TEV) "If they disregard my instructions and do not keep my commandments, then I will punish them for their sins; I will make them suffer for their wrongs."

☛ Sometimes there's _____ pain.

☛ There's simply _____ pain.

What to remember in my hurt

1. Life isn't _____, but God _____!

Romans 8:28 (MSG) That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.

2. God is _____, not _____ that hurts.

Isaiah 63:9 (NLT) In all their suffering he also suffered, and he personally rescued them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them. He lifted them up and carried them through all the years.

Psalm 34:18 (ESV) The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

3. Instead of _____? I'll ask, _____?

Genesis 50:20 (TEV) "You plotted evil against me, but God turned it into good, in order to preserve the lives of many people who are alive today because of what happened."

Psalm 9:10 (NIV) "Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you."

4. God always _____!

Romans 8:18 (NCV) "The sufferings we have now are nothing compared to the great glory that will be shown to us."