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How Can a Good God
Allow so Much Suffering?

Various Texts

Michael Johnston

Groups & Families Discussion Questions

Follow along with the sermon and use these questions to dive a little deeper with your group, with your families at home or for your own personal reflection.

Sermon Notes: Can you identify the main point, the subpoints and application of today's message?

Life Group Questions

1. Conversation starter: What's the best one-liner you've heard at a wedding reception?
2. When it comes to the issue of suffering do you instinctively respond intellectually or emotionally? (The reality is that we all respond with both, but what is more emphasised?)
3. When you have suffered in your life have you vented to God? Why or why not? How did it help or hinder the process of getting 'centred' again?
4. Emotions are good and understanding them is important. Are you good at informing your feelings with the truth? It is easier done outside of suffering, so the encouragement is to do it when things are relatively good, do you do that well? How can you do it better?
5. Do you perpetuate suffering in your life and the lives of others? Are you also making an effort to point them to the solution?
6. Do you believe God hates suffering? Which of the four lines of evidence do you struggle with the most? (He is not the author of it, He has a purpose for it, He has stepped into it, He will put an end to it.)
7. Does the fact that Jesus is the ultimate solution to the problem of suffering give you confidence and hope?
8. Are you and do you feel better equipped to deal with your own suffering and to help support others through theirs? Why or why not? How can we help each other through suffering?