

WHY BAD THINGS HAPPEN

Ice Breaker _____

Game/activity _____

Some Questions...

Q Has anyone ever:

Been given a hard time 'cos they are a Christian?

Been continually bullied by a teacher? (no names)

Been betrayed by someone they trusted?

Started praying and things got worse?

Seen your mum and dad go through a really rough time?

Done it touch at school for no reason?

Watched starving kids, or orphans on TV and felt sad?

Had a pet die?

Had a relative or close friend die?

Heard of tragic events and wondered where God was?

Had stuff happen that just shouldn't have?

The question 'why do bad things happen to good people' is a question each of us will face many times over in our Christian life. It is actually one of the most difficult theological questions regularly asked.

Q How many of you have asked that question, or had others ask you about?

In order to understand you need to understand these attributes (personally or character) of God;

Date you did this study _____

Leaders' Notes

God is omnipotent all powerful is an original power source and the most powerful force in the universe.

God is omniscient all knowing, he know absolutely everything all the time.

God is omnipresent everywhere all the time, there is no space where God is not there. He is eternal with no beginning and no end.

So it's hard for us to really understand this question with out limited human understanding read [Isaiah 55.9](#)

Read the following verses; Genesis 2:15-17 and 3:1-6

God loved us so much He gave us free choice;

Some Questions...

Q What free choice did he give Adam and Eve? & what did they do with it?

God could've stopped them but he didn't want puppets or slaves, He wanted children who would be free to love him.

Q There were consequences for their rebellion, what were these?

When Adam and Eve sinned the bible says that Sin entered mankind

Romans 5:12-19

Vs12 'When Adam sinned sin entered the entire human race, Adams sin bought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.'

Because of sin that entered the world it now effects all of us, whether we walk in righteousness (morally upright) or wickedness. It's a deadly virus that effects the whole earth,

The whole of mankind suffers from the wrong choices of others. Sometimes we face the consequences of another persons choice even though we haven't done anything wrong. And Christians are not immune either, and although it saddens God's heart when he sees much of the stuff that happens, He will not violate mans will.

Because he loves us He chooses to limit His power over mans decisions.

Some Questions...

Q What would happen in the world is we all got everything we wanted all the time?

Q What would happen if God reacted by taking complete control over the earth and all the people?

In order for us to come to know Jesus Christ, we must have a free will. Our living God wants us to freely love Him, not because we have to but because we choose to.

- Q Would you find being a Christian harder or easier if God made all your decisions for you?
- Q Bad stuff happened to Jesus as well as a result of the world He chose to enter, if God had totally controlled everything for Jesus, what do you think would have happened and what would the consequences have been?

Leader:

The Pharisees would have loved him, He wouldn't have been betrayed, everyone would have followed Him as Messiah and he wouldn't have died on the cross, so none of us could be saved and we'd all be going to hell.

There are now 2 options for the conclusion of the study:

Either Gods grace in our lives and/or God plan for maturity through trials.

Option 1 Gods Grace

NOW let's turn the question around: 'why do good things happen to bad people?'

- Q What is the worst thing you have ever done, something you felt really guilty or bad about?
- Q What would it be like if you accumulated or piled up all the feelings that you've ever had and carried them around with you and were never able to be free from any of them?

Basically if bad things never happened to good people and good things never happened to bad people, we would all be stuffed!

Romans 3:10

'There is none good, not one.'

So we are all bad, or sinful by nature. Not all the time, but none of us can be totally good 100% of the time, so thank God for His grace that is given so that we don't get the punishment that we do deserve, and that through Jesus Christ His Son, there is a way that we are spared of the worst consequences of sin, that is death.

There will always be questions that we cannot find answers for, there will be suffering and sorrow as a result of the fallen world we live in that will not change until the Lord Jesus returns, and our God will always be there, willing to show us His grace and mercy in difficult times.

Option 2 God plan for maturity through trials

Talk about a time when you were hurt or sick or went through a tough time and your parent/s nurtured you. They gave you more attention than normal.

- Q Did you feel close to them, did you feel a sense of their love for you as you suffered? Why?
- Q How does this reflect God's love when we go through a tough time and how could these moments benefit us more if life was always sweet?
- Q Read out each of the verses and talk about what effect difficult times can have on us.

James 1:2-4

2 Corinthians 7:8-10

1 Corinthians 12:7-20

Personal Application

Break into pairs and get the youth to talk with their partner about why bad things happen to good people. You might even share about how this has helped you view a tough time you have been through where this study has helped in some way.

Leader

Be prepared to pray for your LG members if some of them are struggling. Watch the body language as they might not openly share until you gently ask them.

Please see the following paper on tragedy from Mark Conner for extra thoughts to help you in this study.