

Week 8
11/8/26

Why Is There Suffering In The World?

Verses

Psalm 56:8
Romans 8:19
Genesis 3:16-19
Luke 13:1-5
Psalm 130:3
Acts 2:44-45
John 9:2-3
John 19:30

Week 8

Why Is There Suffering In The World?

Recap:

Today's AMA question is one that gets asked a lot by Christians and non-Christians alike: Why suffering? It can be easy to look at suffering as something that is unfair, rather than something we brought into the world because of our own choices. The true story of God reveals the problem in the world is sin and the answer is Jesus.

In reality, most people learn and grow through painful times more than any other in their life. While **no one** is typically grateful for any tragedy, the insight, character, and hope that is built during hardship becomes invaluable. Today you will not receive the "perfect" answer, but the problem of human suffering isn't just some abstract concept or idea we debate and discuss in theory; it is a reality for each of us, and God has stepped into that reality to address it in Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

- Shalom, peace, has the idea of everything in the right place, right relationship, right order. How does that broader definition change how you think about what was lost in the fall, and what is ultimately being restored in Jesus?
- How would you explain the difference between suffering as punishment and suffering as consequence? Does that distinction feel meaningful to you?
- Read Luke 13:1-5. Jesus flatly denies that suffering is proportional to sinfulness, yet still calls people to repent. Why do you think He connects those two ideas, that suffering isn't a scorecard, and yet repentance still matters?
- How does recognizing that we're all "perpetrators," not just victims of a broken world, change the way you view other people's suffering — or your own?
- What does it mean to you that God doesn't just tolerate our pain from a distance, but actually notices and remembers it?
- How does knowing Jesus personally suffered change the way you bring your own pain to Him?
- What is one thing from this message you want to remember the next time you face suffering, or sit with someone else who is suffering?

AMA