

MESSAGE NOTES

Is God Good series

“How Could a Good God Allow Suffering?”

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Crossroads Christian Church

September 12 & 15, 2024

God doesn't cause bad things to happen to people:

Some bad things are the result of our own _____.

Some bad things are the result of other people's _____.

Some bad things are the result of _____ attacks.

Most bad things happen because we live in a _____
_____.

The idea of a good God was introduced to the world by Jesus.

John 3:16; 1 John 4:7-8

Pain can serve a _____.

2 Corinthians 7:10

Pain won't last _____.

2 Corinthians 4:17

You are not _____.

Isaiah 43:2; Hebrews 13:5

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

For the week of September 15, 2024

GETTING STARTED _____

1. As you look at your life, what are some things that have influenced your perception of God?
2. Have you ever felt distant from God because of unanswered prayers or difficult circumstances? How did you handle those feelings?

DIGGING DEEPER _____

1. Pastor Rusty discussed the false perceptions of who God is that many of us have held or currently hold. Which one of those have you held before? Explain! (e.g., Bodyguard, On-Demand, Boyfriend/Girlfriend, Guilt, Anti-Science, or Gap)?

How do you think that has affected your faith?

2. God is described in many ways if you study His Word. Considering some of His descriptions, what are some that come to mind?

How do these titles resonate with you personally?

3. Take a moment to read and reflect on the following passages:

- **Deuteronomy 7:9**

- **Isaiah 40:28-29**

- **1 John 1:9**

How do the attributes of God revealed in these verses resonate with the qualities you seek and rely on in your daily life?

4. Our perspective of God can often become skewed when we focus on temporary matters. What steps can be taken to prevent our view of God from being distorted by the immediate concerns of life?

Additionally, how does the promise of heaven and eternal life shape your daily choices and actions?

5. In **Psalm 103:8-12**, David paints a beautiful picture of God's character, describing Him as "compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love." As you read this passage together, what do you believe David is conveying about God's nature?

If these attributes are true, how should they influence the way we live and relate to God and others?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION _____

1. Share with your group the situations in which you tend to put God into one of these categories. What steps can you take to develop a more well-rounded understanding of Him?
2. Who do you know that needs help understanding the loving God?

PRAYER REQUESTS _____