

## Why Do Bad Things Happen?

LifeGroup Lesson

May 14, 2017

### OPENING PRAYER:

Our great God, we worship you because you alone are God. You are holy, majestic and full of power. We thank you that you hear our prayers. Thank you for listening when we cry out to you and for you wanting to hear from us. Receive this prayer today as an offering of praise. May all that we say and do and sing today be about you and for you. Amen.

### BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree/disagree with the LifeTalk this week?
- What has been the toughest struggle of your life? What helped you get through that situation?

### WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

The Psalms are considered a prayer book. All human emotions and needs are represented. As we struggle with why bad things happen, read Psalm 46.

- What part jumps out at you in this chapter?
- This psalm describes the worst that could happen to Israel at the time. When you think of the worst thing that could happen in your life, what would help you survive? How does your faith help you? Or not help you? How can the group help you?
- When you read 'be still and know,' what would that look like for you?
- How can you take comfort in the words to 'be still and know?'

While Jesus is suffering on the cross, he quotes from Psalm 22. At his darkest time, he took comfort in the words from this Psalm, read Psalm 22.

- What brings you comfort in this Psalm? What particularly resonates with you?
- How does this help you when bad things happen? How is it unhelpful?
- Why do you believe Jesus used these words?

Spend time in God's Word. What does each teach you about how to handle bad things? What do you learn about your relationship with God? 2 Corinthians 1:1-11, John 16:31-33, Jeremiah 11:10-14, Romans 5:1-5, Psalm 10, Philippians 4:1-14.

### CLOSING POSSIBILITIES:

- How will your life be different based upon what you have learned in this week's scripture, lesson and/or LifeTalk?
- How can the group pray for you this week?

### NEXT STEPS:

- Write down your blessings, or a blessing each day, to lift you up in bad times.
- Memorize a Psalm that you find comforting.
- Reach out to someone who you know that is experiencing a difficult time.
- If you are going through a difficult time – write a letter or spend several minutes with God getting out all your emotions. Write it in capital letters, scream, cry, etc.

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Living God, our refuge and our strength, even the wind and sea obey your voice. Put the wind back in its place, and say to the sea: Peace! Be still! Fill us with great faith, and save us from the surging water, so that we may tell the good news of your saving love; through Jesus Christ, our hope in the storm. (Based on Mark 4)