



## If God is Good, Why Do Bad Things Happen to Me?

*“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundations? ...Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place? ...Does the hawk take flight by your wisdom?” Job 38 & 39*

*“Who in the world do you think you are to second guess God? Do you for one moment suppose any of us knows enough to call God into question? Clay does not talk back to the fingers that mold it saying, “Why did you shape me like this?” Isn’t it obvious that a potter has a perfect right to shape one lump of clay into a vase for holding flowers and another into a pot for cooking.” Romans 9:20-21 Msg*

### Common Responses to Tragedy

- \* God must have wanted another angel
- \* Maybe God is trying to teach you something
- \* You must not have prayed hard enough
- \* Everything happens for a reason



### 1. Does Prayer Really Matter?

*“Do not be anxious about anything, instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for what he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. God’s peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” Phil 4:6-7*

### 2. If I Believe in Jesus Don't I Get a Break from Hardship?

*“In this world you will have trouble, but do not fear for I have overcome the world” John 16:33*

*God causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.” Matt. 5:45b*

*“(God) comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so we can be there for that person just as God was there for us.” 2 Cor. 1:4. Msg.*

### 3. Maybe We Are Asking the Wrong Question?

**\* Now that this has happened to me, what am I going to do about it?”**

*Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Matt. 11:28*



## Think about it

**Either in your small group or on your own, take some time to think about and answer the following questions. Remember it is always good to start this time with prayer.**

1. Have you ever heard or responded with one of the common responses to tragedy mentioned on in the sermon outline?
2. Why do we feel we need to have an explanation for hardship that happens to us or to other?
3. Even if our specific prayers do not get answered why is prayer still important?
4. Why can asking the question "Why?" "Why is this happening to me?" Become a hinderance to our healing dealing with a painful situation?
5. Does our Faith in Jesus, mean we have less hardship in our lives?
6. What is a better question to ask than "Why is this happening to me?"

### **Going Deeper.**

Read Romans 8: 28-39

What does this tell you about the relationship between hardship, faith, and God's love for us.