

Why?

March 6 & 7, 2010
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*Throughout the year, our focus has been on being God's Answer to a hurting world.
What kind of Answer can we give to someone experiencing catastrophic loss?*

1. WHERE WERE YOU, GOD?

- Isaiah 55:9
- Philippians 4:6-7

2. HOW DO I GET THROUGH THIS?

- John 16:33

3. WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

- 1 Timothy 6: 11-12
- John 11:25
- Joel 2:24-26

EXTENDED STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Facing the hard questions of evil and misfortune in light of the Word forces us to consider these three truths: *God is absolutely in control. God is absolutely wise. God is absolute love.* What insights do you see in these verses about God's control, wisdom and love in the midst of terrible circumstances?

- Isaiah 55:8-9
- Matthew 10:29-31
- Psalm 139:15, 16
- Romans 11:33
- Psalm 32:10
- Romans 8:35, 37

What difference would it make if God was in control and wise but did not love us? Or what if He was wise and loving but not in control? Or in control and loved us but was not wise?

2. Take a look at Lamentations 3:32-33 and Isaiah 43:1-2. What words would you use to describe God's attitude toward us in these verses?

What experiences have you had that tempted you to doubt God's love? How did you regain confidence in His love?

Why doesn't God keep us from pain and suffering? (see James 1:2-4).

3. Read Psalm 46 out loud. What do you think of when you hear the word "fortress?" When is a fortress needed?

What one thing about God is said twice in this psalm?

Why should we not fear even if the earth gives way and the mountains crumble? (see verse 1).

Where is God when we suffer? (see Psalm 23:4)

4. Check out Micah 6:8 and 1 Peter 3:10-12. How does God want us to live in spite of the influence of evil in our world?

What does it mean to love mercy?

Define *humility* in terms of our daily walk with God. What does it look like?

How do we pursue peace? What is indicative of the word "pursue?"

5. What is the difference between justice and vengeance? Look up both in a dictionary.

Now take a look at what God has to say about vengeance in Romans 12:18-19. What does our anger accomplish? (James 1:19-20 - see also Eph 4:31).

What happens when we let anger control our reaction to heartache? (Eph 4:26,27).

What is one thing you can do this week to sow seeds of justice, mercy or peace?