



Messy Middle, Why is There Suffering in the World?

There is an assumption that good things happen to good people, and bad things happen to sinners. But clinging to that myth will cause your faith to eventually be ground into dust.

Bottom Line: Our present sufferings are nothing to be compared with our future hope.

Discussion Questions:

1. Were you raised to assume there is a one-to-one correlation between bad behavior and suffering?
2. What is, or has been, your go-to explanation for why good people suffer?
3. Has suffering ever chipped away at your faith?
4. Read John 9:1–5. How does this account address the myth that good things happen to good people, while bad things happen to sinners?
5. Read Hebrews 4:14–16.
 - What stands out to you?
 - According to verse 14, why should we remain faithful during seasons of suffering?
 - According to verse 16, what can we expect from God during seasons of suffering?
6. If left unaddressed, what is currently happening in your life that has the potential to undermine your faith?
7. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
8. How can the group encourage you this week?

Changing Your Mind

God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.

—C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*