

DEATH TO LIFE *PART 2*

God is good. But is He, really? If He is, why do bad things happen to good people? If He is, why do people get cancer, lose their jobs, or go through divorce? If God is good, how do we make sense of everything that seems so wrong? Thankfully there is an answer.

1. Why do you think it is so difficult for people to reconcile the idea of a good God with the reality of pain and suffering in the world? How have you personally wrestled with this?
2. When we think of God there are 3 misconceptions that we often have:
 - 1) God protects us from all harm (or at least he's supposed to!)
 - 2) Everything happens for a reason (Everything must be part of God's overall plan for the world)
 - 3) God is in full control of the world

Which one of these misconceptions do you find easiest to believe? How is it potentially harmful?

3. Part of understanding pain and suffering in the world is by grasping the nature of God's love. In other words, Because **God** is love He created us with free will. How have you seen yourself or others use that freedom to create good or harm?
4. Read the following verses, what do they say about suffering and God?

Ephesians 6:12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Acts 10:38 "...Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

Psalms 145 Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness.

The Lord is merciful and compassionate... The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation.

The Lord always keeps his promises; he is gracious in all he does.

The Lord is righteous in everything he does; he is filled with kindness.

I will praise the Lord, and may everyone on earth bless his holy name forever and ever.

5. What is an area of pain or suffering in your life (big or small) that the group can pray for? (Spend time praying for each member)