

BIG IDEA

We may never find the answer to the question “Why” but we all have the opportunity to choose the “How” of how we’ll get through what we’re going through.

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 34; James 1:2-4

- We have all experienced the regret of bad decisions. It is painful when you realize you are going to miss out on good things! The opening questions may feel like a downer, but we hope they will lead to an in-depth discussion of pain and suffering.
- Everyone deals with loss and failure differently. Some people can let it roll off their backs. Everybody is different. For those who seem to handle it positively, ask a follow-up question such as, “Why do you think you can roll with things so smoothly?”
- Sometimes people may never personally experience anything positive from their suffering, or their pain may have positive results for others that they never experience. Again, if there is a fresh or raw experience someone is dealing with, please be tactful.
- “As I took up life as a minister, I tried to understand why so many people resisted and rejected God. I soon realized that perhaps that main reason was affliction and suffering ... But at the same time, I learned that just as many people find God through affliction and suffering. They find that adversity moves them toward God rather than away... When pain and suffering come upon us, we finally see not only that we are not in control of our lives, but that we never were.”—Timothy Keller, *Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering*
- “No amount of money, power, and planning can prevent bereavement, dire illness, relationship betrayal, financial disaster, or a host of other troubles from entering your life. Human life is fatally fragile and subject to forces beyond our power to manage. Life is tragic.”—Timothy Keller, *Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering*

REGULAR QUESTIONS FOR YOUR GROUP

How are you doing?

How can we help?

How can we take the next steps to be 3C Christ-followers?

Who is someone you can BLESS?