

why on earth... ?

a fresh way to talk
about life's big questions



Session sheet

why on earth... do bad things happen to good people?

In this session we ask how it's possible to have faith in God in a world where there is pain and suffering.

We look at how we can still put our trust in God, even if we don't have answers to all our hard questions.

Background Noise



Video Recap



Joseph's story



No easy answers



All experience suffering



God loves and cares



God with us in the pain



Hope for the future

Text: God With Us

The Bible tells us God loves and cares for people. He never abandoned Joseph, whatever life threw at him. And God never abandons us too. God doesn't make all our pain go away, but he promises to be with us in our pain.

Also, the Bible tells us God himself came to earth and felt pain. The heart of the Christian faith is that Jesus was God in human form. So when Jesus suffered and died, God himself was feeling human pain.

God is not cold and distant: he knows what suffering feels like, and God cares when we suffer.

Text: Joseph's Message to his Brothers

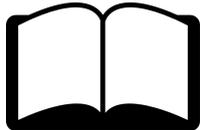
'As far as I am concerned, God turned into good what you meant for evil. He brought me to the high position I have today so I could save the lives of many people.' (Genesis 50:20)

Takeaway

Either:

- This week see if you can make a list of groups in your neighbourhood set up to help others. This can include churches, charity shops, hospitals etc. Choose one and find out more about what it does.
- This week, look for good news stories in your neighbourhood. A good place to start might be a local newspaper or local radio station.

Pointers to a Good God



Bible Writers

All parts of the Bible, written across thousands of years, tell us God is good and loving, and God cares about justice:

'The Lord is good. When trouble comes, he is a strong refuge.' (Nahum 1:7)

'God is light and there is no darkness in him at all.' (1 John 1:5)

'This is what the Lord Almighty says: Judge fairly and honestly, and show mercy and kindness to one another.' (Zechariah 7:9)



Jesus

The Bible tells us Jesus was God in human form. If we look at Jesus, we see a picture of what God is like.

Jesus loves, cares and heals. He spends time with people who feel lost and abandoned. He tells his followers that it is love that shows the world their faith is real.



Right & Wrong

We all have a sense of right and wrong. Our built-in conscience tells us kindness is good and cruelty is bad.

Lots of people are convinced this comes from beyond ourselves – it points to a God who is good, and who gives us our sense of right and wrong, good and evil.



People of Faith

As people go deeper in faith, they find they want to live caring and generous lives, because they believe God calls them to do this.

Churches provide food banks, advice centres, and so much more. Christians have always been in the front line of charity work, at home and abroad.