

Growth Group Discussion Q's

February 15, 2026

Fun Discussion Starter: If you could relive a treasured moment from your past, what would it be?

Message Review: Hope in a Broken World

Every day we are faced with the uncertainty of life. Every time we turn on the news, there is some crisis or tragedy or conflict that we must process. We go to work and struggle with that one team member that is underperforming and blaming others for the shortfall. We had yet another argument with our spouse over what seems like a trivial matter. On top of it all, we are grieving for a dear friend who was recently diagnosed with a painful disease. What are we to make of all this hardship and evil that touches our lives so regularly? Is there hope in this broken world?

The World is Broken

After the fall in Genesis 3, all creation was subject to frustration and has been “groaning” from that time until now (Rom 8:20-22). Our own bodies, though amazingly created, are subject to aging, disease and death. Our choices, darkened by sin, can cause deep and lasting pain and disruption in one another's lives. (Eph 2:1-3).

Where is God in it all?

1. God has a plan which is good

Ephesians 1:11 (NIV) — 11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will...

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) — 11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

- How hard is it for you to reconcile the chaos and evil we sometimes experience in life with the reality that God is at work, bringing about a divine plan that is good?
- Can you think of any biblical examples of God's people enduring a difficult experience that produced good as a result?
- Do you sometimes have a hard time believing that God's plan for you is good?
- Can you think of a time when, after going through a particularly difficult experience, you gained something good through it? Or learned something about God or from God that was important?

2. God is Patient with Evil

Psalms 103:8 (NIV) — 8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV) — 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Ezekiel 33:11 (NIV) — 11 Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live.

- How can God be patient with evil in the world and still considered just?
- Can you think of a time in your life when you received patience or grace from someone when you deserved punishment? How did this make you feel?

3. God is redeeming all things

Romans 8:28 (NIV) — 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

James 1:2–4 (NIV) — 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. **4** Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Romans 5:3–4 (NIV) — 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; **4** perseverance, character; and character, hope.

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NIV) — 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. **17** For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

- Read Rom 8:28. What role does our love for God and alignment with his purpose play in his ongoing work for our good?
- While all these verses are true, is there a time when they don’t feel comforting?
- A part of God’s good plan is our emotional and spiritual maturity. Why is learning perseverance so important to being considered mature?
- “Joy” (James 1:2) and “glory” (Rom 5:3) are provocative words describing the preferred perspective of a believer going through a painful trial. How can such a perspective be experienced?

Fix our eyes on Jesus

Hebrews 12:1–3 (NIV) — 1 ... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

- Jesus himself learned endurance through that which we suffered. How does his example give us encouragement when we are going through a difficult time?
- Have you ever been encouraged by watching a fellow believer trust Jesus through a difficult time?