

I have a Q: Are all faiths the same?

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REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will suffer with those around me who are suffering.
- I will look at those who are suffering as if they are Jesus himself.
- I will bring my grief to Jesus, who knows the place of ultimate suffering and the place of ultimate hope.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

It's interesting that the book that is most troubled and perplexed by human suffering is the Bible. Rather than try to sweep it under the rug, the writers of Scripture give very direct expressions of anguish, confusion, and rage about suffering and pain.

Really, the first two chapters in the Bible are about the universe before suffering, and the last are about existence post-suffering, but most everything else in between is about suffering. So if God is all-loving and God is all-powerful, why is there so much suffering, pain and evil in the world. That's the question we're asking this week.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you were not Christian, what aspects of Christians would make you turn away from or not interested in Christianity?

2. Do you believe Christianity is true? If so, how do you become accountable for your life based on Jesus's life and teaching?

3. How did Jesus treat people of other faiths?(Samaritan woman)(Roman centurion)(Canaanite woman)

4. When Paul had an encounter with Jesus on the way to Damascus to arrest Jesus's followers, he was completely converted from a zealot who wanted to arrest and kill Christians to a zealot based on knowledge willing to suffer persecution to help those whom he used to consider enemies. When Paul (Saul then) met Jesus, he asked him, "Who are you, Lord?" Let's ask this question ourselves. Let's go around the room and say what kind of person Jesus was on this earth.

5. Paul writes about the people devoted to observing the Law. He writes in Romans 10:2, "For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge." Paul (Saul) meets the crucified Jesus when he said, "I am the one you are persecuting," then he sees what a zeal based on knowledge is like... the kind of zeal that God requires. Elaborate what that is.

6. Please read 1 John 4:7-12 (below):

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

How do we become 'followers of Jesus with zeal according to knowledge' in our own time and environment? Use examples.

7. Imagine you are a person of a different religion. In what aspects of the lives of practicing Christians would you be able to see the character of Jesus?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will listen to people of other faiths with love.
- I will be curious, ask questions and sincerely want to learn.
- I will pray for someone from another faith and simply start a conversation.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Numbers 22
- Numbers 25:7-8
- Acts 7:59-60
- Acts 8:1
- Philippians 3:5-6
- Galatians 1:13-14
- Acts 9:1-5
- Acts 9:15-17
- Romans 10:2
- Romans 12:11
- Romans 12:14

Prayer Request(s)

We would like your feedback!

Please answer this brief survey to help us provide you with a better small group experience!

<https://forms.gle/1miQBLuCAeKLC1qc7>