

Asking for a friend... Is God good and just?

May 17, 2026 Discussion Guide

This week's reading: Genesis 3:1-19; Daniel 3:1-30; John 9:1-7; Romans 8:18, 28; 1 John 4:8; Revelation 21:1-4

CHECK UP:

Memory work: Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- Acts 2:38

Did you follow through on any unfinished business with God this past week?

OPEN:

- What was a highlight in your week this past week? What was a particular challenge you had?
- How have questions that challenge the character of God been a test to your faith?

READ and ASK: Genesis 3:1-19; Daniel 3:1-30; Psalm 34:18; John 9:1-7, 16:33; Romans 8:18 & 8:28; 1 John 4:8; 1 Peter 4:12-13; Revelation 21:1-4

- There are many texts that could have been read, what truths can we learn from these texts (amongst others) about pain and suffering in the world?
- Is there anything that stood out to you from this weekend's sermon?
- Many see pain and suffering as meaningless.. Why should we see pain and suffering as "not useless"?
- What would you say to someone who struggles with the reconciliation of pain and suffering in the world with an all-powerful good God?
 - o Why is it important to not give quick or trite answers to those who ask about pain and suffering?
 - o What are some best practices to speaking with someone who is walking through a season of pain and suffering? (see James 1:19)
- What attributes of God must we trust when are faced with injustice and suffering in the world?
 - o What would you say to someone who doubts in the goodness and justice of God?

APPLY:

- What clear truths of God keep you grounded when you are faced with pain and suffering in the world?
- Are you one who has pulled away from God or been drawn closer to God through times of pain and suffering?
 - o How have you grown through times of pain and/or suffering?
- NEXT STEP: What step can you take this week to trust God more in times of difficulty or to walk with someone else in their suffering?

Memory Work:

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. - Romans 8:18

Next Week's Reading: