

Encountering God While Suffering

Cell 2020

Main teaching point: God never promises us that we won't have difficult times. But He does promise that He will be with us through it and that at the end of time, all will be made right

THINGS YOU WILL NEED: POST IT NOTES, BIG PAPER, PENS

Welcome

Bring me: This is a bit more of an active game that might be a bit more dependent on where people are. The aim of the game is simple, the leader says an object and everyone has to try and find it and bring it back. You'd probably give people a thirty second timer to find the object, as you don't want anyone looking for too long. You might want to motivate them with giving them the opportunity to choose the next object for example, as long as they aren't too silly. Another motivator could be an Amazon delivery prize of some sweets or something. Play a few rounds and see who wins.

Discussion

Get the group to pre-read Genesis 1:27-31 John 16:33, Luke 22:39-44 & Revelation 21:1-4

It might be worth messaging these verses to the group the day before your session to give them a chance to read them all.

Start by checking if everyone has read the Bible passages and what they thought about them...

Silence Breaker: If God is all powerful, why do you think He lets bad stuff happen?

If we totally follow God will life be harder or easier on earth?

Do you find that you feel closer to God when things are going well or when things are going badly? Why do you think that is?

Have you ever experienced God during a particularly hard time? What was that like?

What hope can we have as Christians when life isn't quite how we would want it to be?

Do you think God knows what it's like to suffer?

How do you think God might be at work in our current situation?

Pray

Open up the whiteboard on Zoom. Get everyone to write their prayer requests on there. If they are on a phone or don't know how to type, get people to say them and you type them on the whiteboard for them (or get another member of the group to do it).

Save the whiteboard and send it round to your group (however you usually contact them). Then, at the end of the session once you have signed out, encourage the groups spend 5 minutes praying for the things listed. Stress how it would be easy not to, but encourage them to make space to do nothing else but pray straight after the session.

Reflection

Send the group this link on the chat:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qv-SXz_exKE

Tell them that at the end of the session, watch the video and pray while it is on, asking God to help trust Him during this time of lockdown.