

WHY, GOD, WHY?

Job 1-3

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What are some characteristics of suffering?
- When have you wanted to ask God why something happened? How did that experience impact your faith?

When we experience or witness times of immense suffering in our lives, it's inevitable that we or those we love will ask difficult questions of God and our faith. Why do we suffer? Does God cause bad things to happen? If not, why does he even allow them? If he can stop human suffering, why doesn't he? The biblical story of Job asks and addresses these questions as it looks both as Job's suffering and the human response to it. When we study Job and wrestle with these questions, we find reassurance that it's possible to maintain a strong faith through times of difficulty and that it's perfectly okay, even biblical, to lament our circumstances and suffering directly to God.

Listen: [Why, God, Why?](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- How do you react to host Scott Hoezee's assertion in segment 2 that as we try to make sense of suffering, it's important to remember that, "There might just be more going on than you know about, and it is not all the direct will of God"? Think about an example of suffering from your life. Does the above statement make you think or feel differently about that experience of suffering? What are the implications for your faith?
- In segment 2, host Dave Bast discusses one way Christians have tried to explain the complex relationship between what happens in our lives and God's will. Have you previously encountered the differentiation he mentions—between God's permissive will and God's active will—or is this the first time you've heard it? Do you think this distinction is helpful? Why or why not?
- In the *Groundwork* episode "[Justice, Lament, and Flourishing](#)," Dave describes what it means to lament: "Lament isn't just crying, you know; it isn't just being sad...It is a specific way of praying that we see in scripture that ought to be triggered by the circumstances in the world as we see it in its brokenness or in our own lives...It is questioning of God..." Do you find lament easy or difficult for you? Why?
- What helps you continue to have faith or continue to praise God despite suffering?

Related Passages

- **Psalm 13**

- **Psalm 22**
- **Psalm 55**
- **Lamentations 1:20-22**
- **Matthew 27:45-46**
- **Romans 12:15**
- **1 Peter 5:6-11**

Conclusion

Using Job's lament (Job 3:11-26) or one of the Psalms listed above as a model, write your own prayer of lament in response to the suffering you have experienced or are currently experiencing in your life or that you're witnessing in your local community, in our nation, or in our world right now.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/why-god-why>

Printed on April 25, 2024