

FOOD FOR THOUGHT *(continued)*

TAKING IT HOME

1. Read the following verses together:

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world. **John 16:33**

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. **Romans 8:28**

These verses reveal that God is actually working FOR US and not AGAINST US! If the bad things that happen in this world are not God trying to teach us a lesson or punish our sins, then what should our response be when we DO experience difficulties, trials, and hardships in this life?

2. What should our response be towards others when THEY experience pain and difficulty in this life? What does the grace of God look like in those situations?

3. As you reflect on the talk from Sunday, is there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

4. In what ways has your relationship with God grown so far through this series?

MESSAGE NOTES

Asking For A Friend // Week 3

How could a loving God allow suffering?

1. God created humanity for _____ community.

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us..." So God created human beings in his own image... Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! **Genesis 1:26, 27, 31**

2. God gave humanity _____ that he does not revoke.

Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made... In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden - except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die." **Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17**

3. Sin always has _____.

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. **Romans 5:12**

Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. **Ephesians 6:11-12**

4. Jesus fully expresses God's _____ to evil.

The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God. **Hebrews 1:3**

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. **Colossians 1:15**

MEMORY VERSE:

Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that comes from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. **Colossians 2:8-9**



MESSAGE NOTES *(continued)*

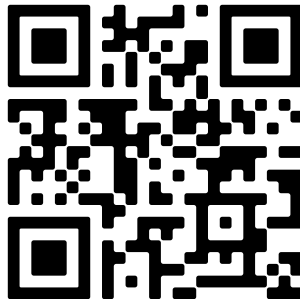
5. Through Jesus, all things will be _____!

God has now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ - everything on heaven and on earth. **Ephesians 1:9-10**

But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved. **Romans 8:21-24**

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. **Romans 8:35-37**

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“Be doers of the word and not hearers only...” **James 1:22**



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We encourage you to take these questions home with you and **WRITE DOWN YOUR ANSWERS.** Bring it with you to Home Church as you discuss how this applies to your life!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Have you ever faced a situation or a season in your life where you wondered, “If God loves me, then why would he allow this?” Would you be willing to share that situation with your group?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Beginning with Jesus himself - each New Testament author tells us that **GOD LOOKS LIKE JESUS!** What characteristics are found in the life of Jesus that reveal what God is REALLY LIKE?

SCRIPTURE:	CHARACTER TRAIT REVEALED:
Luke 4:16-21	
John 11:30-44	
John 8:1-11	
Matthew 9:9-13	
Luke 23:32-34	

2. In what ways does that impact your view of God?