

iSearch
Wk 2/3: iHurt
December 12 & 13, 2020



LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to know that even when they hurt, God is there with them and loves them.

STUDENT QUESTIONS

Today's discussion is centered around this question from a survey of middle school students: "If God loves us, why does He make us go through all this pain?"

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:19-22 &
Romans 8:28

THINGS TO KNOW

Why do bad things happen to good people? This is a deep question that comes up over and over again in our lives and the lives of those around us. Mike Lee has answered this question in several different sermons. If you have not heard one of those sermons yet, we recommend you go listen to Week One from the "Lessons from a Quarantine" series at gethope.net/sermons to prepare for this week's discussion.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

MAIN POINTS

- (1) Jesus chose to suffer pain because He chose to save us.**
- (2) God can bring good even out of the worst situations.**

GET THEM TALKING

Breaking a bone is super painful. Who has broken a bone? Who thinks they have broken the most bones?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ COLOSSIANS 1:19-22,
then answer the following questions:

1. To "reconcile" means to "fix what is broken." How did Jesus reconcile our broken relationship with God?
2. How do you feel knowing the God of the universe chose to suffer so that you could have a relationship with Him?
3. Because Jesus chose to go through pain, He can empathize with us when we are hurting. How does that effect our relationship with Him?

God loves us so much, He chose to suffer to save us. And He did more than that, He left us with a promise to use everything in our lives for good. LET'S READ ROMANS 8:28 and talk about it:

4. Share a time when you saw something good come out of something bad.
5. Do you feel like you can go to God with your questions and your pains? Why or why not?
6. What are ways we can take our questions and pains to God?

NEXT STEPS

INDIVIDUAL: Encourage your students to take some time in prayer this week to pray and bring any pain or questions to God.
GROUP: Have your group pick one more of the questions students wrote down last week to research answers and talk about what you all found together next week.

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

SCRIPTURE

MS students are concrete thinkers, so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue.

COLOSSIANS 1:19-22 (NLT)

“For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ,²⁰ and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross.²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions.²² Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.”

ROMANS 8:28 (NLT)

“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.”

LEADER CORNER

On our Hope Student Ministry app, we have answered the twelve top student questions we’ve received over the years in short videos. It’s possible that answers to some of your students’ questions are there – download it and check it out! Let your students know about it.