



Veterans Celebration
FREE Concert & Lunch

Date: Saturday October 14th
Time: 11:00am - 1:00pm
Location: Awaken Las Vegas
7175 W. Oquendo Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89113

Please RSVP using the QR code
or call 702-328-2639



REACHING THE CULTURE

GO!

WHAT THE HELL? IF GOD IS LOVE, THEN WHY IS THERE EVIL?
HABAKKUK 1:1-4

WEEK 4

**“When belief in God becomes difficult
The tendency is to turn away from God
But for heaven’s name to what?”
G.K Chesterton**

“Why” is one of the most powerful words in the English language. The curiosity that is driven by this question has led to innovations like the iPhone and resolved world wars. The relentless pursuit to answer this question has created the concept of quantum mechanics and unveiled discoveries such as penicillin. The question also compels us to seek answers to life’s most perplexing problems, like, “If God is love, why is there evil?” This question is not only philosophical and intellectual but also real and personal. Beyond my experience with evil, as a pastor I spend time with people who have asked me, “If God is love, why did my son die of an overdose?” “Why was my daughter shot and killed?” “Why did my husband divorce me and leave me with our children?” “Why was I sexually abused as a child?” Then, of course, there are questions like “If God is good, why were 6 million Jews slaughtered in the holocaust?” No one poses these questions to Charles Darwin and Darwinism. They are posed to the God of the Bible because the Bible declares unequivocally that God is sovereign, good, and loving.

Far from feeling concerned about the Bible’s ability to address this issue, the Scriptures affirm that Christianity has the strongest answers, meaning, solutions, and hope in the face of the reality of evil in the world. In a personal relationship with Christ, we not only turn to God for answers but also discover that He and His loving presence is the true answer our hearts need.

(10 min) PRAY

Ask God to permeate your time with His presence. Remember that everyone in your group has been confronted with the reality of evil in their present or past. Ask God to pour out His grace, mercy, love, and healing as you begin your time together.

(25 min) TIME TO CONSIDER

As you’ve had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through this week’s lesson, consider these questions as a group and discuss them

1. Pastor Derek contended that the very question, “Why is there evil if God is good and loving?” affirms the existence of God. He followed this logic: identifying evil requires a moral law (standard). A moral law requires a moral law giver. Evil is done to actual people, and the struggle to understand this exists because people have value and worth. Value and worth come from the Moral Law Giver because He has created people in His image. He has made people in His image because of love. Love requires a choice between good and evil. Therefore, our response to good and evil shapes our hearts to love or not love God. Discuss this. Has evil and suffering turned you towards God or away from God? Consider the quote by G.K. Chesterton at the top of this study guide.
2. Jesus confronted evil so that you could experience God and His love. Read Isaiah 53 and discuss what Jesus endured to conquer the power of evil and enable you to experience God’s love. Discuss how evil is not just an external problem but also an internal one. How has the crucifixion and resurrection brought victory to you over evil?
3. All the prophets who struggled with what appeared to be God’s injustice in allowing evil were brought to a place of peace when they centered their trust and faith in God. Read Habakkuk 3:17-19 and Job 42:3-5. How will you choose to trust God with your life experiences? What do you learn from these prophets?

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSES: **Psalm 73:17** *“When I thought how to understand this, it was too painful for me - Until I went into the sanctuary of God.”*

EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT TOGETHER: *Pray for the next 15-20 minutes as a Life Group. One of the most remarkable testimonies of the love and goodness of God is the strength that He provides His sons and daughters when they are experiencing evil and suffering in their lives. As you pray, be open to words of encouragement and uplifting from God’s Spirit. Be open to God giving you a special word from the Scripture, a word of knowledge, or a word of wisdom for someone in the group.*