

Home Group Discussion Questions

History (Making it Personal)

1. One of the key objections to a belief in a “loving God” is the issue of suffering and evil in the world....”if your God is so loving, why doesn’t He stop the evil in the world...” How do you answer that question?
2. Talk about times in your life when you’ve struggled with God’s distance or silence in a time when you could have really used some tangible sign of His presence. How have you learned to turn your suffering or difficulties over to the Lord?
3. Name some examples of people whose quiet life and peaceful response to enemies was ultimately vindicated by the Lord? Why is it difficult to leave judgment or vengeance in the hands of God?

Digging Deeper (Looking to the Bible)

4. Read Revelation 15:1-16:21
5. Talk about the judgment and the justice of God. Why MUST a holy God judge sin and evil? What kind of God would He be if He turned a blind eye to the suffering and sin of people?
6. Talk about God’s timing – versus ours. Read 2 Peter 2:4-9; 13; and 3:8-9. Add in Romans 9:22 and talk about the mercy of God in NOT stepping in immediately to punish sin.
7. Read John 3:16-20 & 36. Add Romans 1:18-23. What do we know about our condition apart from Jesus Christ? What is it that causes us to pull back from the judgment of God?
8. Talk about the concept of justice. If someone breaks a law, causes an offense, steals, lies, cheats....we expect that debt to be paid – we expect justice. In fact, in our day, we DEMAND it! Why then do we hesitate to consider that a just and HOLY God must judge sin?
9. Now, talk of the hope that the coming judgment offers us. Read 2 Peter 2:13; 1 Peter 1:6; Romans 12:19; Exodus 3:7-10. God hears when His people suffer – He will answer! Remember the suffering of the 7 churches – and the comfort this text was to be to them.
10. Revelation 16 – the wrath of God is poured out on WHO? Read Romans 5:9; 1:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; and Romans 8:1. Talk about the assurance we have in the middle of God’s judgment. Compare the children of Israel in Egypt during the days of the plagues to the hope we have for God’s protection in the future.
11. Read 2 Peter 10-15 and talk about the kind of lives we should be motivated to live. Talk about Revelation 16:15 and the readiness or watchfulness we should maintain.
12. Finally, read the song of Moses – Exodus 15 and the new song of the Lamb – Revelation 15:3-4. Spend some time in worship of our just and holy God! Who will not fear you O Lord and bring glory to your name!

Taking It Home (Application)

13. What kind of lives should be live in light of the coming judgment? What urgency should this put in our living? What comfort do we take from God patience and mercy? How should this affect our daily interaction with others?

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