

JOSEPH

An Ordinary Radical

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Valley Church

August 26 & 27, 2017
Week 2 – “Where Was God?”

The Big Questions (Genesis 37:5-18)

If God is so good/loving/powerful, why is there so much evil?
Why do bad things happen to “good people?”
Where was God when....?

Five Assumptions:

When we ask these questions, we are admitting these things...

1. There are objective _____ in this life
2. There must be _____ in the universe
3. People are supremely _____
4. Life really is _____ living
5. We are _____ of finding and profiting from answers

The REAL Question Behind the Questions:

What is the _____ of life?

Roman Proverb: *“When the sailor does not know which port he is heading for, no wind is the right wind.”*

The Big Idea:

What is the purpose/meaning of life?

- To be happy? Make money? Impress people? Protect ourselves from harm? Or is there something far greater...?

“There exists within the heart of every human an infinite vacuum that can never be filled to its satisfaction by anything but God himself.” (Paraphrase: credited to philosopher Pascal)

SMALL GROUP Q'S

Personal Life:

1. At some point in our lives, we have all probably asked the question, "Where was God when...?" Whether it was before or since you've been a believer, can you briefly name a time when you wrestled with doubting God because of something bad that happened?

Ponderings:

2. When we live in a nice community, a good neighborhood, etc., it is easy to feel insulated from the evil under our noses (violence, human trafficking, severe poverty, etc.). As a part of Valley, you are a part of a church that is actively combatting those evils through ministry like The Leaven partnership, helping our homeless turn their lives around, church planting, missions, etc. How can investing in ministry and sacrifice toward others bring healing and perspective to your own suffering? Explain...
3. With your group, talk through the following questions based on the Five Assumptions revealed in the weekend message:
 - If there are objective values in this universe, where do they come from?
 - What makes good "good" and bad "bad?"
 - If the universe has some order to it, how did things get that way?
 - If humans are of the greatest value, what gives us that significance?
 - What is it about life that makes it truly worth living?
4. You're having a conversation with a friend who is suffering unjustly and they ask, "What is the purpose of my life?" In general terms, where do you guide them?
5. Re-state in your own words the Roman proverb: "When the sailor does not know which port he is heading for, no wind is the right wind." What does this mean in the context of our discussion?

Promptings:

6. As the summer season comes to a close, will you actively seek God about where or how He might specifically lead you to serve in a ministry to someone who has less than you or is suffering more than you? With the holiday season on the horizon, suffering tends to feel magnified for many, and being a conduit of God's grace to someone else is so needed...