

2025 TERM 1 LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

Part 2

Questions For God

Have you ever wrestled with big questions about God and how He works in the world? In our upcoming series we'll be exploring some of the tough questions that both churchgoers and non-churchgoers ask, beginning with one of the most challenging: Why does a good God allow suffering? You may be curious about what the Bible has to say on this, or you may know someone—a friend, neighbour, or family member—who is searching for answers. We hope you'll join us for these important conversations.

ACCESSING THE MATERIAL

On the following pages you will find all of the information needed to go through the Life Group Material.

If you are unable for some reason to access the material through these different means, please simply email office@brbc.org.au or call 07 3261 5045.

QUESTIONS FOR GOD

WEEK 1 – DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON GOD AND SUFFERING

Bible verses that may prove useful as you discuss these questions:

- Psalm 34:8 – *"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."*
- Deuteronomy 30:19–20 – *"This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live..."*
- 1 John 4:8 – *"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."*
- Romans 8:28 – *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."*
- Isaiah 55:8–9 – *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*
- Psalm 34:18 – *"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."*
- Revelation 21:4 – *"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

- Philippians 3:10 – *“I want to know Christ – yes to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”*
- 2 Corinthians 4:7-10 – *“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.”*

1. Share some stories of people you know who seem to have suffered unfairly. What have you said to these people about God as they suffer? What Bible verses have you found helpful?
2. The sermon linked God’s love with our suffering. How did God’s huge love for us bring suffering into the world? Do you think the benefits of free will are worth the pain that comes with them?
3. The sermon explained that suffering is not outside of God’s plan and can lead to greater purposes. How does God use suffering for His greater good, even when it’s difficult for us to see in the moment? Give some examples if possible.
4. Do you think those who pray and serve God suffer less than those who don’t? Why?
5. How does your knowledge of the suffering of Jesus help you when you suffer or when you see someone else suffer?
6. How would you respond to someone who questioned God’s goodness or power because of the presence of evil and suffering in the world?

7. Should Christians be afraid of suffering? Should Christians avoid suffering if possible?
 8. Have you seen God take away suffering for someone? What did that tell you?
 9. Does God's promise of heaven make a difference as you face suffering? What else helps you?
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WEEK 2 – DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON LIFE AFTER DEATH

Bible verses that may prove useful as you discuss these questions:

- John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*
- John 14:2 – *My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*
- Revelation 21:1 – *Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

- 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 – *So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.*
- 2 Thessalonians 1:9 – *They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.*
- Matthew 25:46 – *“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”*
- Luke 12:47 – *“The servant who knows the master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.*
- Matthew 11:21 – *“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you.*
- 1 Corinthians 3:12 – *If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.*

- Romans 3:23 – *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

1. When are you most likely to think about death? Does it come into your mind much?
2. What have you heard about near-death experiences (e.g. hovering above their body, moving down a tunnel towards light, meeting a loved one who has passed away)? Do they make you more expectant about life after death or not?
3. Read John 14:1–3. What is Jesus preparing for us? Do you think Jesus is preparing a place especially for you?
4. What are the traditional pictures of heaven? What are your mental pictures of heaven? Which picture is most helpful to you?
5. Followers of Jesus will get a new resurrection body. We already have evidence of this in Jesus' resurrection body. What will this body be like? How will it be different? What are you hoping for?
6. Do you believe in hell? What will hell be like?
7. Are there graduations in hell (will some suffer more than others)? What biblical evidence is there for this?
8. Are there graduations in heaven (will some enjoy heaven more than others)? What biblical evidence is there for this?
9. Can you be absolutely certain that you are going to heaven? How?



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