



AIM YOUR HARD QUESTIONS AT GOD

This week, we learned another way to live through a bad day by observing how Jesus handled His worst day. After hours of horrible pain on the day of His crucifixion, Jesus questioned God. As He asked God, "Why," He set the example for us to aim our hard questions at God rather than man. God can handle our toughest day and our toughest questions; we just need to ask Him. When things around us don't make sense, we need to remember God loves us. We need to trust in His nature, His promises, and His final destination for us. He is the Father of compassion, He is always there for us, and our troubles here on Earth are momentary when we view them with an eternal perspective. Simply put, Jesus went through the worst on Earth so we could experience God's best in heaven. In a challenging season that prompts us to ask "why," we can learn from our pain and show love to others as God leads us through our trials. Real worship is trusting God when life doesn't make sense, and worshipping through the "why" will cause our pain to lose power as we magnify God.

Main Lesson: Sometimes life throws curve balls that are hard to explain, when that happens, aim your hard questions at God, but have the faith to receive the answers He supplies.

Read **Matthew 27:45-50**

Discussion Questions

- Discuss the theological implication of Jesus' question to the Father. Read 1 Peter 2:24, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Isaiah 53:6.
- On the cross, Christ said, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" so that today, with worship and wonder, we can say, "My God, my God, why have you accepted me—despite all my sin and all my failure?" The abandonment Jesus experienced was the abandonment we deserved, which Jesus took upon Himself. Because of that mighty act, we will never be abandoned. Take time to thank and worship Jesus for taking our punishment upon Himself.
- Why is it so important to trust God when life doesn't make sense? Discuss how having a relationship with God and worshipping Him through difficult times can help you get through life's challenges.
- In the middle of a difficult situation, we may wonder where God is and why we face certain struggles. Discuss what you learned from this message on how to persevere during troubling circumstances. How can you apply what you've learned to help someone else overcome a trial by trusting in God?
- Have you ever questioned God or gotten angry with Him when you were going through a painful time? Share what you learned from that experience and how you might handle that situation differently after hearing this message.

Prayer Focus

This week, make time to worship God before asking Him to meet your needs. Share your pain with Him and ask Him to reveal His purpose in your tough season. Tell Him that you will trust Him in good times and in bad times. Thank Him for consistently carrying you through the trials of life.

Next Steps

Write out your next step in your walk with Christ and how you plan to accomplish it. Talk to your Small Group leader if you need guidance in how to move a step forward in your faith. .

ANNOUNCEMENT: Baptism Bash (April 24th).