

God Wants Me To Be Happy

Series: Spiritual Bigfoots, Disproving the Myths

Les Hughes, Senior Pastor

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Scripture: 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.

Group Session

Opening Questions

Today begins a series on Spiritual Bigfoots. We'll be looking at myths that are common to our culture. What are some of the common misconceptions about God that you experience?

(In the coming weeks we'll look at the myths that we all go to a better place when we die, Christians shouldn't judge others and if we're suffering we must have done something wrong.)

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. Read Romans 8:28. What is our common understanding of this verse? What are the ways you think we might be missing the meaning based on our understanding and not God's?

God's definition of "good" may be different. It might not be our good, but His. Can you give some examples of this?

2. As God shapes us, He uses some of the same factors that developed Jesus' character. Doesn't it make sense that God would use pain to shape us as well? How do we reconcile this with some of the preachers and teachers we hear on TV? What is their message that seems so popular?
3. God's ultimate purpose is to bring glory to Himself, not to make me happy; but in the process it's possible for me to be blessed by Him and to experience joy in Him. Have you been guilty of having a false belief about God's purpose in your life?
4. Sometimes the hardships we face are the result of our sinful choices. God still works even when we make bad decisions. When has this happened in your life?
5. In a fallen world, people do bad things and good people get hurt. Have you ever been the innocent victim? Did God use that in some way in your life as well?
6. Read Romans 8:18. What does this passage share with us regarding our sufferings of today?
7. Some people think we can do anything and God will work it out for our good. Read Prov. 22:3 and

Prov. 19:3. What light does this shed on that belief?

8. God is able to take what appears to be bad and produce something good. Have there been any historic events that you wonder how God is going to use for His or our good? How do we deal with those things?

Closing Challenge

What are we going through right now and what do you think are the explanations? Innocent victim, something we brought on, something God is doing in us, in other?

How should we respond? (discuss obedience)