

LESSON 1: The Planet Is Broken – Study Guide & Discussion Questions

Lesson Overview: The planet wasn't created broken, but broken it is. While there is no escape from the pervasiveness of the brokenness - even for the Children of God - there is an incredible help.

Lesson Guide

- I. The Planet is _____
 - a. It was created _____ (Gen. 1)
 - b. The _____, brought on by sin “broke” the planet (Gen 3). It touches
 - i. The earth is cursed.
 - ii. Our _____ are also touched by the curse.
 - iii. Our _____ are also touched, as evidenced by Cain who ended up being a murderer.

- II. If we all know that the planet is broken, why are we _____ when bad things happen?
Perhaps we are in _____ ?

- III. The _____ gospel is a worldview that teaches that believers can _____ the brokenness of this planet.
 - a. Their interpretation of Psalm 91 is that God doesn't want the children of God to _____ .
 - b. Twisted interpretations of Psalm 91
 - i. Verses 9 & 10 = if something _____ happens to you, it is because you did not really, really _____ God.
 - ii. Verse 11, because the Lord's angels are taking care of you, you won't even _____ toe.
 - c. The correct interpretation of Psalm 91, “The real you, who you really are, is safe forever. You can never be touched by _____ power or by his weapons.

- IV. There is help for us on this _____ planet.
 - a. We are never alone in our pain.
 - i. God the _____ intercedes for us with wordless groans with perfect prayers that perfectly match our _____. (Romans 8:26)
 - ii. God the Father is _____ us. (Romans 8:31)
 - iii. God the Son, Jesus, ever lives to _____ on our behalf. (Romans 8:34 & Heb. 7:25)

- V. Conclusion: Knowing that the _____ is supporting us in our suffering can help us to have a more _____ faith.

SURVIVOR'S GUIDE to Suffering

Grab N Go Survivor Tip #1: Choosing to _____ rightly.

How we choose to _____ in the midst of suffering will determine how we talk, pray and _____ .

If suffering brings us disillusionment or anxiety, it is evidence of faulty thinking, a faulty view of _____ .

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Why does blaming God for our suffering come so naturally – even for believers – when we know that the root cause of creation’s brokenness is sin?
- 2) In Romans 8:22, Paul likens the groaning of creation to that of a woman in childbirth.
 - a. Share stories of the hope and anticipation – and perhaps apprehensions – you have experienced as you awaited the birth of a child.
 - b. What do you think the Apostle Paul wants his readers to understand by this metaphor?
- 3) How should the truth that “your soul is eternally safe, forever” influence our thinking during moments of pain and suffering?
What are some words to describe how this truth affects you?
- 4) What does each person of the Trinity do to support us in our suffering? (Romans 8:26, 31, & 34)
How should this truth, if fully embraced, impact a believer that is presently in the midst of great suffering?
- 5) Realizing there is no escaping the brokenness of this planet, how can we keep our souls “aloft”, looking up?
- 6) How would you describe a true survivor of suffering? Is it just someone who comes out the other end still with a pulse (biologically alive)? Describe someone you know or know of who is a great example of surviving suffering.

LESSON 1 Study Guide ANSWERS

- I. The Planet is [BROKEN]
 - a. It was created [GOOD] (Gen. 1)
 - b. The [CURSE], brought on by sin “broke” the planet (Gen 3). It touches
 - i. The earth is cursed.
 - ii. Our [BODIES] are also touched by the curse.
 - iii. Our [SPIRIT] are also touched, as evidenced by Cain who ended up being a murderer.
- II. If we all know that the planet is broken, why are we [SURPRISED] when bad things happen? Perhaps we are in [DENIAL]?
- III. The [PROSPERITY] gospel is a worldview that teaches that believers can [ESCAPE] the brokenness of this planet.
 - a. Their interpretation of Psalm 91 is that God doesn’t want the children of God to [SUFFER].
 - b. Twisted interpretations of Psalm 91
 - i. Verses 9 & 10 = if something [“BAD”] happens to you, it is because you did not really, really [TRUST] God.
 - ii. Verse 11, because the Lord’s angels are taking care of you, you won’t even [STUB YOUR] toe.
 - c. The correct interpretation of Psalm 91, “The real you, who you really are, is safe forever. You can never be touched by [SATAN’S] power or by his weapons.
- IV. There is help for us on this [BROKEN, FALLEN] planet.
 - a. We are never alone in our pain.
 - i. God the [HOLY SPIRIT] intercedes for us with wordless groans, with perfect prayers that perfectly match our [NEED].
 - ii. God the Father is [FOR] us.
 - iii. God the Son, Jesus, ever lives to [INTERCEDE] on our behalf.
- V. Conclusion: Knowing that the [TRINITY] is supporting us in our suffering can help us to have a more [RESILIENT] faith.

SURVIVOR’S GUIDE to Suffering.

Grab N Go Survivor Tip #1: Choosing to [THINK] rightly.

How we choose to [THINK] in the midst of suffering will determine how we talk, pray and [LIVE].

If suffering brings us disillusionment or anxiety, it is evidence of faulty thinking, a faulty view of [GOD].