

Series: Best of Mythbusters

Message: Does Everything Happen for a Reason?

July 29, 2012

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Romans 8:28

### When Bad Stuff Happens:

The Good News: Everything happens for a reason.

The Bad News: It's not always the reason we hoped for!

Four reasons why a bad thing might be a bad thing:

We live in a fallen world.

Genesis 1-4:8; 1 Peter 4:12; Hebrews 9:27 & 1 Corinthians 15:21 & 26; Isaiah 5:20

If we've ignored God's warnings.

Romans 6:23; Proverbs 1:23-33; Deuteronomy 28:1-2 & 15

If we've made foolish decisions.

Proverbs 19:2-3; Proverbs 22:3

If we're caught in the backwash.

Daniel 1:1-6; 1 Peter 4:19

### Practical advice:

2 Timothy 4:1-20; Luke 10:17-20

- Don't be afraid to call bad things bad.
- Be careful not to catastrophize. (the gift of perspective)
- Never forget life's biggest problem. (and Christ's answer)

You should be optimistic when you live by faith!

Hebrews 11:6; Revelation 21:1-5; Habakkuk 3:16-19; Romans 8:31-39

### Build on a solid foundation:

- God loves you
- God says I am with you
- God leads when we follow
- God is not finished with your story

## NEXT STEPS

Take some time to focus on the questions below. Grab a friend and turn these questions into a discussion.

### My Story

1. Can you remember a time where God was working for the good in your life even though you couldn't see it at the time?

2. If someone were to ask you, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" How would you answer based on both this week's teaching and/or your own experience?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. We explored a number of reasons why "bad stuff" happens. Saul and Ezra are two people who experienced the consequences of ignoring God's warnings and making foolish decisions. Read 1 Samuel 15:13-26 and then Ezra 9:5-7; 10-11 and jot down a few notes contrasting how these men dealt with both their mistakes and the consequences of those errors.

Even though we know that God loves and cares for us, most of us still have a tendency to deny our mistakes or to blame others. Why do you think that is?

When bad stuff happens as a result of our actions, it can be tough to admit our part of the problem. Can you think of anything that would help you own up to your mistakes like Ezra did?

2. We learned this week that God may have something “better in mind” even when we are experiencing “tough stuff.” Read the story of Naaman in 2 Kings 5:1-3 & 9-15; what good came out of Naaman’s challenge? What did it take on Naaman’s part to see and experience this good?

God doesn’t always take away our challenges or difficulties as He did with Naaman. How can good come out of the difficulties that God hasn’t taken away?

3. There are some tough situations or circumstances God may never remove from our lives. How do the verses below help us hang on and trust God in the midst of the “tough stuff” or hard times?

Matthew 5:11-12

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Hebrews 12:10-11

Isaiah 43:1-3