

God's Book

'Wise answers to challenging questions.
Hugely helpful!' Bear Grylls

An Honest Look at the
Bible's 7 Toughest Topics

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Questions for Discussion or Reflection

Session 5 - Exile & Suffering

Icebreaker

If you could magically erase one everyday annoyance from the world (traffic jams, lost keys, etc.), what would you choose?

1. Andrew says exile is one of the Bible's key images for life in a broken world. How does seeing your own story within the Bible's larger story of creation, fall, redemption, and future hope help you approach life's struggles — not just by trying to understand them, but by learning to trust God in the midst of them?
2. Lamentations includes the cry, 'Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed... great is your faithfulness' (Lamentations 3:22–23). How, and where, do you think lament has a place in the life of the church and in the lives of individual believers?
3. Andrew highlights the tension in Jeremiah 29. God has "plans to prosper you", yet the people are told their exile will last seventy years. How does that mixture of promise and waiting help you think about seasons where relief doesn't come quickly?
4. Scripture suggests that some suffering comes from human brokenness, some remains mysterious, and some is used by God in ways we don't fully see. How do these different perspectives shape the posture you take, both when you are suffering and when you are alongside someone else who is?
5. Habakkuk says, 'Though the fig tree does not bud... yet I will rejoice in the Lord' (Habakkuk 3:17–18). What do you notice about the kind of trust Habakkuk expresses here, and in what ways, if any, does this passage speak into your own walk with God?
6. The Christian story claims that in Christ, God enters human suffering rather than standing at a distance. How does Jesus' willingness to carry pain and injustice on himself shape the way you view God in the midst of suffering?
7. Looking back over today's session, from lament to long-term trust to hope, what's one insight that has stayed with you and helped you see suffering differently?