

Small Group Questions

October 6, 2019

God Never Said That

Message: "God wants me to be happy"

This six week series will examine some of the most common statements that sound biblical but are not found in the Bible. These beliefs can misguide us versus God's reliable direction for our lives. Some of the statements have become a part of our culture so that they sound American as well as spiritual. Each week, we will unpack one statement and look at the reality of what God revealed to us about that idea from one central passage.

The hope of this series is to model the value of biblical accuracy and to apply God's truth in various areas of life. It is likely that these statements will provoke a lot of conversation and perhaps even some pushback. The pushback may well be challenges against the ideas we seek to correct. As always, please know that as a group leader, you are not on an island. If you have questions brought to you or situations where you feel you need help, please reach out to the staff.

Thank you once again for your service to God by loving the people in your group!

(Questions to get everyone to participate)

1. America was founded on the ideals of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." What do you think the founding fathers meant by "pursuit of happiness?" Why?
2. Is it possible to be happy when things are not going the way we want them to go? Why or why not?

(Questions based on the primary texts)

Read Romans 8:28-30.

3. Does :28 teach that everything will turn out ok in this life? Why or why not?
4. What does it mean that people who love God can experience "all things?" What kind of things are referenced earlier in the chapter that challenge happy circumstances?
5. :29 tells us what the "good" is in :28. Can you give an example of when that happened in your own life?
6. What is the end result of God's work in the lives of those who follow Him as found in :30? How can that perspective change how we navigate difficult times?
7. What hard circumstance of life can you trust God with, namely, that He will work it into something that will bring more conformity to the image of Jesus in you?
8. Hypothetical question: someone says to you, "How can you believe in and follow a God who allows bad things happen to you?" How do you answer?