

## WHY DOES GOD ALLOW BAD THINGS?

Jonah 1.4-17

### THE LORD...

Does God cause, bring about, allow, permit, decree, or appoint? Yes. But what is more important than the words we choose (though they are important), is why we choose them and how we interpret them in light of Scripture.

**There is no attribute of God more comforting to his children than the doctrine of divine sovereignty. On the other hand, there is no doctrine more hated by worldlings.**

- C. H. Spurgeon

Judges 9.23 // 1 Samuel 16.14 // Psalm 51.7, 8 // Hosea 6.1-3 // Isaiah 45.7 // Exodus 4.11 // Matthew 10.29-31 // Proverbs 16.33 // Proverbs 30.5 // Isaiah 55.9

**If you believe what you like in the Gospel, and reject what you don't like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself.**

- Augustine

Whether God allows or causes, Scripture never paints the picture that God is just sitting back and *passively* allowing things to happen. He makes every decision.

**God permits what He hates to achieve what He loves.**

- Joni Eareckson Tada

### BUT WHY?

There are innumerable reasons why God might allow hardship. Here are a few.

- To bring about good. **Genesis 50.20**
- That the work of God would be displayed in your life. **John 9.1-3**
- To prepare us for eternal awe in unending bliss. **Romans 8.18**
- To prepare us for the ministry of reconciliation, compassion, and sacrificial generosity. **2 Corinthians 1.3-12**

### PUNISHMENT VS. DISCIPLINE

A common thread in all the biblical examples is the result of God using someone to show mercy. From Joseph to Paul, David and Jonah, and of course, Jesus, God bringing hardship brought about good for others. One thing we can rule out, however, for every believer, is punishment. If Jesus has been punished for your sin, then God will not punish you also.

If we need any convincing that hardship is *not* proof that God is somehow “making us pay” or bringing it about because of His displeasure towards us, consider Jesus: He was homeless, rejected, mocked, deserted, and eventually killed. And yet God said to Him, “this is My Son, in whom I am well pleased.”



## NOTES:

### This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

**Jonah 2:2**

I called out to the Lord, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

## ARE YOU NEW HERE?

### WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering during service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some snacks or coffee in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

### WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our kids' ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security.

Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions email **Katie McGinty** at [katie@lifemission.tv](mailto:katie@lifemission.tv)

### JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** worship with the adults and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service.

Our **9th - 12th graders** stay in the service with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not “graduate the faith” when they graduate school. Our **High School Ministry meets on Thursday Nights @7PM** here at Classical Academy in the Study Hall.

For more info or questions about our student ministries, email **Casey Barnes** at [casey@lifemission.tv](mailto:casey@lifemission.tv).



## Contact Us

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## COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before your group starts, is there anyone who can share the Memory Verse?

1. Read **Jonah 1:3-17** and your Sermon Notes from Sunday. Is there anything that stood out to you from these verses or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Jobey talked about God's sovereignty on Sunday. Read **Colossians 1:15-20**. Do you believe that "in him, all things hold together"? Is the doctrine of God's sovereignty comforting to you? Explain in what way? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you have any reservations or hesitations about the doctrine of God's sovereignty? If not, do you think any of your non-believing friends would have trouble with the idea of God's sovereignty? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you trust that God can use bad or evil things for His glory? Read **Exodus 9:12, Habakkuk 1:5-7, and Genesis 50:19-21**. If not, why is this difficult to comprehend? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you ever think that the world deserves to be free from suffering or evil? Read **Romans 3:23 and Isaiah 53:6**. (Note that even God's chosen prophet, Isaiah, used the term "WE all like sheep . . .", and not "YOU all like sheep . . ."? Even God's prophet and someone God chose to write a book in his Bible, admits he had "gone astray"!).

6. Read **Isaiah 43:7**. The Westminster Catechism states: "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever." What was God's purpose in not allowing Jonah to finish his journey to Tarshish? What do you believe your purpose in this life to be? \_\_\_\_\_

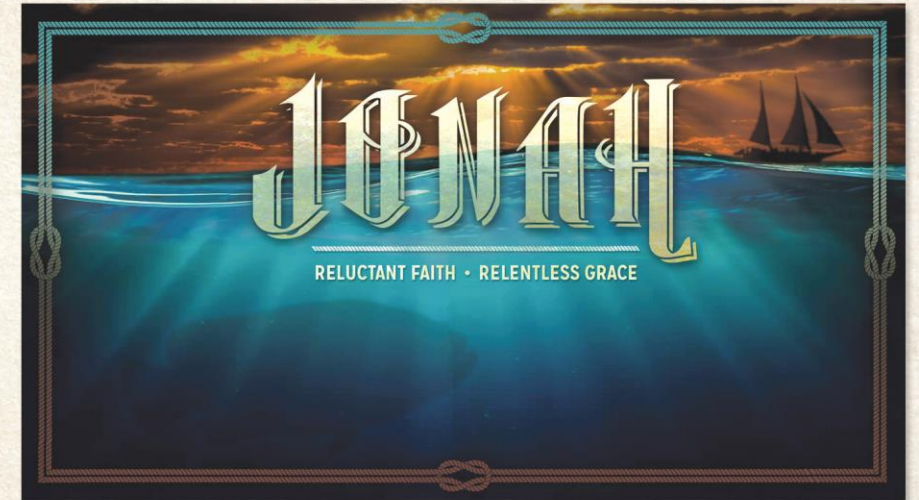
7. Are you living your life for your own glory or comfort or plans, or are you living your life for God's glory? Are you submitted to His plans for your life, even if that means bailing on your plans to go to "Tarshish" and instead going to "Nineveh"? Spend some time in prayer and meditating, and ask God what you can do to submit yourself to His plans for your life? How can you get on-board with His plan to make His glory known? Be prepared to share your thoughts in your Community Group this week



# LIFE MISSION

C H U R C H

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY,  
WHO ARE SAVED, EQUIPPED, AND SENT BY THE GOSPEL.



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Jonah 1:4-17 // May 7, 2017

### SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School  
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

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