“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” (Psalm 34:18)

“God does care but He is powerless to do anything about the evils of the world and we must simply endure them.” Rabbi Harold Kushner’s conclusion in “Why do bad things happen to good people?”

“If that’s who God is then He should resign and let someone more competent take over.” Elie Wiesel, the Nobel Prize winning author and concentration camp survivor, on Rabbi Kushner’s quote

“Some other religions try to deny that pain exists, or to rise above it. Pain, God’s megaphone, can drive me away from Him. I can hate God for allowing such misery. Or, on the other hand, it can drive me to Him.” -- Where is God When It Hurts? Philip Yancey

Three Basic Causes of Pain and Suffering:
1. ________________ failure or ________________ choices
2. Failures of ________________
3. __________ or ________________ in the world

Three Things God Expects of Us:
1. ________________ (Daniel 3:17-18)
2. ________________ (1 Peter 5:5-7)
3. ________________ (Acts 4:29-32)

What can I expect from God? (Psalm 38:9-10)

Two Different Ways That God Moves:
1. God moves to ________________ (Psalm 68:5-6, Psalm 18:2-3, 17-19)
2. God moves our understanding through ________________ (2 Corinthians 1:3-5)
   • Pain or bad things move my understanding of ________________ God is.
   • The only answer to WHY bad things happen to good people only is found in ________________

For Further Reflection:
1. What are your thoughts about the quotes from Kushner, Yancey, and Wiesel?
2. Reflect on your own personal experiences about when bad things happen to good people.
3. What do you say to people who claim “life is not fair?”
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Three Basic Causes of Pain and Suffering:

1. PERSONAL failure or POOR choices
2. Failures of OTHERS
3. SIN or EVIL in the world

Three Things God Expects of Us:

1. FAITH (Daniel 3:17-18)
2. HUMBLENESS (1 Peter 5:5-7)
3. COMMUNITY (Acts 4:29-32)

What can I expect from God? (Psalm 38:9-10)

Two Different Ways That God Moves:

1. God moves to PROVIDE (Psalm 68:5-6, Psalm 18:2-3, 17-19)
2. God moves our understanding through EXPERIENCES (2 Corinthians 1:3-5)
   • Pain or bad things move my understanding of WHERE God is.
   • The only answer to WHY bad things happen to good people only is found in JESUS CHRIST