

September 3, 2023

# QUESTIONS WORTH ASKING



*Why does God allow evil and suffering?*

The first Sunday of the month is our family service and CPkids in grades K-6th are in worship with us. We are an intergenerational community and children are always welcome in worship!

We joyfully share communion together today, the sacrament in which we remember Jesus' sacrifice and renew our commitment to be united with Christ and His Church. We welcome all baptized Christians who are sorry for their sin, love Jesus, and desire to serve him to join us in the celebration of the Lord's Supper as the elements are passed.

To guests among us: we are deeply grateful you are with us and eager to share the joy of knowing Jesus and living in community. We invite you to reflect on the communion verses below in our time together.

## TODAY AT CP

Communion and  
Family Sunday

CP littles ages 0-5  
*Nursery*

CPkids in worship

Prayer Partners  
*Front of Worship Center*

Labor Day Weekend  
CP offices are closed on  
Monday, September 4 in  
observance of the holiday

Benevolence offerings are given as a response to communion. The deacons use this fund to provide assistance to both church and community members who have difficulties meeting essential needs. To give, place your gift in a giving envelope in the offering bag.

## COMMUNION REFLECTIONS

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.  
Romans 3:23

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. Ephesians 2:4-5



# Snapshots

STORIES OF FAITH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

NEW SERIES BEGINS  
NEXT SUNDAY

## **STARTING POINT** Sunday, September 17 at 11 AM | Conference Room

Are you new to CrossPoint? We've got a place for you! Hosted by Pastor of Community Life, Danny Unterkofler, Starting Point is a short time together to learn more about the history of CrossPoint, our vision for ministry, and the best places to get connected into the CrossPoint family! Join us for snacks, drinks, and learning all about CrossPoint. Kids are welcome!

Let us know you will be there!

Sign up at Connection Point or [crosspointchino.org/startingpoint](http://crosspointchino.org/startingpoint)

## **CP COMMUNITY DINNERS** Sunday, September 24 | CrossPoint family homes

There's no better way to get to know your church family than to gather around the table! You will be assigned a home to have dinner and have a great time developing community with new or old friends.

When: Sunday, September 24 at 5 PM

Who: Anyone from CrossPoint! Sign up as a family, pair up with a friend, or go solo. All are welcome!

How: Sign up today at

the Lobby Info Desk or  
[crosspointchino.org/dinner](http://crosspointchino.org/dinner)



## **IN THE LIBRARY** Stop in today to find great books and media!

- The Problem of Pain: How human suffering raises almost intolerable intellectual problems by C.S. Lewis
- Walking with God through Pain and Suffering by Timothy Keller
- How can It be All Right When Everything is All Wrong? by Lewis B. Smedes
- Evil and the Justice of God by N.T. Wright
- Job: A Man of Heroic Endurance by Charles Swindoll
- God's Devil: The incredible story of how Satan's rebellion serves God's purposes by Erwin W. Lutzer
- Praying with Eyes Wide Open: A life-changing way to talk with God by Sherry Harney
- Prayer: Does it make any difference? by Philip Yancey

# UNCOVERING MEANING IN THE ORIGINAL TESTAMENT

11 AM Sunday mornings | Worship Center  
Teaching by Matt Piper and Ryan Bykerk  
*First class begins September 10*

See the Old Testament in a new light as Bible teachers Matt and Ryan walk through the layers of meaning that can be found in the historical and cultural context of this ancient text.

This conversational, informal Sunday school class will focus on the stories of the Old Testament with insights from the original Hebrew Bible and what we can learn from it. Find deeper meaning in the Scriptures by studying the books that are foundational to the whole story of the gospel.



CP SUMMER  
MISSIONS

**CP MISSIONS NIGHT**  
Sunday, September 10  
6:30 PM | Fellowship Hall

Join us for a time to hear the stories from our summer mission teams of what God did in Lesotho, Sri Lanka, and Kenya!

*Coffee and dessert will be served.*





*welcome! we're so glad you are here*

Welcome to those visiting CrossPoint today! We hope you experience God's goodness and love for you in our worship today. We're here to walk beside you and help you find your place no matter where you are on your faith journey. We would love to meet you, so please stop by Connection Point in the lobby after the service. You can also let us know you visited by completing the Connection Card found in the seat back or online at the QR code below. Thank you for joining us, you are welcome here!

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## Why does God allow evil and suffering?

Truth must come from God and not our experiences:

God is \_\_\_\_\_ = God is the supreme authority, knowing all, working in all, and allowing nothing to happen outside of His good and perfect will.

God is \_\_\_\_\_ = God eternally gives of Himself to others. This love is active, faithful, relentless, good, and loyal.

Reconciling evil and suffering with God's attributes:

1. God allows evil and suffering because it's the result of our \_\_\_\_\_ choices.  
*Genesis 3:6-7 and Romans 8:18-21*

2. All of humanity stands guilty before God and deserves \_\_\_\_\_. *Luke 13:1-5*

Regarding our sin, the real question is, "Why does God \_\_\_\_\_ us and our \_\_\_\_\_ at all?"

3. Suffering has great \_\_\_\_\_ for us as Christians:

- Pain and suffering remind me of my \_\_\_\_\_ on God. *2 Corinthians 12:8-10*
- Pain and suffering mold and shape me into the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus. *Romans 8:28-29*

4. Evil and suffering do not \_\_\_\_\_ the day! *Revelation 21:1-4*

M Genesis 12, 13  
 T Genesis 14, 15  
 W Genesis 16-17  
 Th Genesis 18-19  
 F Genesis 20  
 Sa Genesis 21  
 Su Genesis 22

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."  
*Revelation 21:3-4*

- What was something in the Scripture passages or message that made an impact on you? Explain.
- Where do you see evidence of evil and suffering in the world? Where do you see evidence of the hand of God (and the sovereignty of God) in the world?
- How would you respond to someone who says, "Given the suffering in the world, either God isn't a God of love or He's not really in control!"
- Read Genesis chapter 3 and Romans 8:18-21. How do these passages help us to understand the problem of evil in light of a loving/sovereign God?
- Read Luke 13:1-5. What does this passage teach us about suffering? Have you experienced a time when your pain brought positive results?
- Read Revelation 21:1-4. What is our hope considering the reality of the suffering we will experience?
- How might you apply this sermon and Scripture passages to your life?