

# LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

## BLOCKBUSTER WEEK 1

### SERIES INFO

#### BLOCKBUSTER

This 2024 “blockbuster” disaster film is based on Kate Cooper, an amateur storm chaser using research to understand tornado behavior. This film deals with the theme of theodicy, which is the attempt to explain the goodness of God when there is the existence of evil and suffering. It gets to the question, “Why does God allow bad things to happen to good and faithful people?”

### PERSONAL FUN FACTS

- When you think about storms, what makes them so unsettling to you?

### TAKEAWAYS

What were the greatest “takeaways” you had from the message or movie this weekend? Were there any “aha” moments?

### DISCUSSION

#### 1. Engaging the Storm

Imagine looking out into the backyard and a storm is brewing. Angela Buckman, WTHR 13 meteorologist pre-empts regular programming and announces a tornado warning for your county. Tornado sirens go off in the distance, and you are warned to take cover immediately. Trouble is coming and there is nothing you can do to stop it. What emotions are you feeling? Fear? Helplessness? Anger? Loss of control? The reason this movie is such a good example for us is because we all go through storms in life. What makes storms so difficult is that they remind us that we are humans in a world that we cannot control.

#### Scripture: James 4:13-15

1) When life feels out of control, what is your natural tendency—do you try to take control, or do you lean toward trusting God? (no churchy answer required, just honesty)

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### DISCUSSION CONTINUED

2) In the movie *Twisters*, did these natural storms seem more terrifying or more unfair? Did they feel more random to you, or did you find yourself demanding a reason behind them?

### 2. Why Do Bad Things Happen?

At some point in life, we all ask this question, “Why do bad things happen to good people?” Real moments of brokenness, loss, and life that don’t go our way take place. When we see some of the depictions of disaster like in the movie, *Twisters*, we don’t just say, “That’s normal,” when we visualize homes being destroyed and lives being disrupted. Something within us says, “This isn’t right.” The reason we acknowledge this is because deep down, we know the world is not the way it’s supposed to be.

### Scripture Reading: Romans 8:20-22; Genesis 3

1) Do you think events like natural disasters are God directly causing them, or the result of living in a fallen world? Why does this distinction matter?

2) Which is more difficult for you to accept: that we live in a broken world, or that God allows it for now?

3) What do you believe that God is doing about our broken world? In other words, if the world is broken, where is God in the middle of it?

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### DISCUSSION CONTINUED

#### 3. Where is God in the Storm?

Where is God when the storm hits? It is here that we turn to the life of Jesus. The presence of Jesus does not mean the absence of storms. In fact, He, Himself, said, “In this world you will have trouble ... but take heart, I have overcome the world.” What this means is that, even in the midst of our storms, we do not face them alone. In the movie, *Twisters*, the goal was to understand every nuance about the storm and how to survive it; in life, and in Scripture, the greater truth is this: that in the storm, we are not alone. We may not always understand the storm, but we can know the One who walks into it with us.

**Scripture: John 1:14; Isaiah 53:3; Mark 4:35-41**

1) What are we learning about what we really are needing in the middle of a storm? When life storm hits—not movie ones—what do you find yourself looking for from God?

2) Would you rather have a full explanation of why something bad is happening in your life, or a deep assurance that God is with you in it? What is the difference?

### APPLICATION

- Why is it sometimes difficult for me to trust God's presence when I don't understand His reasons?
- Where do I most need to be reminded right now that God is present with me?
- What does it look like for me to trust God in the middle of my current storm?

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### PRAYER

Holy God,

We come to you as people who don't always understand. There are things in our lives and in this world that feel overwhelming, confusing, and sometimes unfair. Some of us are walking through storms this very moment. They are things we didn't expect, things that we wouldn't have chosen, and things we don't know how to fix. If we were to be honest, there have been times when we've wondered where You are. Moments when You felt distant, moments when it seemed You were silent, and moments when we didn't understand why You didn't step in the way we had hoped. But we are reminded that just because we don't understand, doesn't mean You are absent. You are the God who sees what we cannot see. You are the God who knows what we do not know. You are the God who steps into our suffering. Jesus ... thank You that You did not remain distant from our pain but entered into it.

So, Lord, right now, we bring You our storms: the situations we can't control, the questions we can't answer, and the burdens we've been carrying. We choose not to trust in our understanding, but to trust in You. We hold onto the promise that one day You will make all things new and that every storm will cease, every tear will be wiped away, and everything broken will be restored.

Until then, we trust You, lean on You, and walk with You ... we give You our lives, our questions, and our trust. In Jesus' name. Amen.