



# Questioning God

## *The Difficult Side of Faith*

*Rev. John Barnes*

*Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.*

We Christians sometimes blithely speak of the goodness of God. But when a friend is tragically killed or when someone we love suffers severely or unfairly, we have doubts. What does it mean to say, “God is good” when some terrible things happen in the Bible and in life?

In this study we’ll look at what the Bible teaches about the difficult side of faith: suffering, hell, and scriptures that seem hateful or violent. The study is based on the Bible and several books. John Wenham’s *The Enigma of Evil* guides the first seven sessions. Eric Zenger’s *A God of Vengeance?* guides session 8 and Philip Yancey’s *Where is God When it Hurts?* guides session 9. You don’t have to buy or read these books. If you chose just one to read, I would suggest *Where is God When it Hurts?* or C. S. Lewis’s *The Problem of Pain*. I’ll have other books available if you want to dig deeper. You are invited to come ponder deeply the goodness of God.

The study will meet on Wednesday nights from 6-7:30 p.m. in C-280 and Thursday mornings from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in C-230. I am offering it at two different times because I wanted as many as possible to participate. I hope you’ll come—especially if you’re not in a small group or Sunday school class.

In Christ,

*John*

### Nine Sessions:

- 1: Introduction and Stumbling Blocks in the OT, NT and the World We Live in
- 2: Hell: Can We Believe that God is Good if He Sends People to Hell?
- 3: Inadequate Solutions: God is Not Powerful and/or God is Not Good
- 4: Good Features in an Ugly World (Part I): Freedom, Deterrence, Retribution, Delay, and Corporate Solidarity
- 5: Good Features in an Ugly World (Part II): Apparent Evils, Real Blessings
- 6: The Bible’s People and God’s Laws
- 7: The Destruction of the Canaanites
- 8: Psalms of Vengeance
- 9: Where is God When it Hurts?

### Schedule:

Wednesdays 6-7:30 p.m. : January 10, 17, 31; February 7, 28; March 7, 14, 21, 28 (Room C-280)

Thursdays 10:30-11:30 a.m.: January 11, 18, February 1, 8, March 1, 8, 15, 29 (Room C-230)