

When & Why Bible Study – Week 1

- A. Read the introduction and the first 8.5 pages of chapter 1 (through the section that ends on page 9) of *Why – Making Sense of God’s Will*, and answer the following questions:
1. Why did Hamilton write this book?
 2. How does Hamilton define “theodicy”?
 3. According to Hamilton, what two “misguided assumptions” do people commonly hold about how God is supposed to work in the world?
- B. Reflect on your faith and experiences and answer the following questions:
1. In one sentence, describe what you were first taught about the character of God.
 2. Has anything made you question what you were taught about God? If so – and you’re comfortable with sharing – what was it?
- C. Read the introduction of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, and answer these questions:
1. What was the image of God that Kushner grew up with? Does it differ from yours? How so?
 2. What “bad thing” made Kushner question the image of God that he grew up with?
 3. What was one of Kushner’s assumptions or questions when he and his family experienced this tragedy?
 4. Why do you think it took personal experience with tragedy before Kushner questioned God’s justice and fairness?
 5. What is one reason Kushner gave for writing his book? Who did he write it for?