

## When & Why Bible Study – Week 2

- A. Read pages the remainder of chapter 1 of Hamilton's *Why?* and answer the following questions:
1. What are the three ideas Hamilton suggests form the foundation for reconciling God's goodness with the suffering we experience in our world?
  2. Read Genesis 1:26-30. What does it mean to you that God gave humans dominion over creation? How do humans exercise their dominion?
  3. Name three things you consider humans to be responsible for as tenders of creation.
  4. Hamilton suggests that God has given humans certain things to help them in their care for creation. Which one do you think is most helpful?
  5. Hamilton states that, "God's primary way of ruling and acting on our planet is through people." Give an example of either a time when you feel that God worked through you, or a time when you feel that God was working through another person in your life.
  6. Hamilton sees the story of Adam, Eve, and the fruit of the tree of knowledge as symbolizing God's creation of humans with free will. Why do you think God created us with the freedom to choose?
  7. Hamilton states, "human beings have a predisposition ... to be drawn to do that which is not God's will." Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

8. Hamilton gives three different categories of suffering. Which one has affected you most in your life so far? Has this suffering caused you to question God's fairness?
  
  9. Give an example of how a human decision caused suffering. How do you believe God works through people to alleviate this type of suffering?
- B. BONUS! There are two creation stories (written by different authors at different times) included in the Book of Genesis. One begins with Genesis 1:1 and ends with the first sentence of 2:4, the second one begins with the next part of 2:4 and ends with 2:25. Read both creation accounts. How does God create humans in each story? Do you believe the differences matter? Why or why not?