

## When & Why Bible Study – Week 5

Read Chapter 3 of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, and answer these questions:

1. Are you able to accept that some things happen for no reason, that there is randomness in the universe? Why or why not?
2. Give an example of someone crediting (or blaming) God for something that might be due to random chance.
3. Why do you think Kushner didn't think a theology discussion was appropriate to have with the woman who survived an accident caused by a drunk driver?
4. Why do you think some people have to believe that everything happens for a God-given reason/purpose?
5. What evidence did Kushner give that the ancient Israelites knew that God didn't control everything?
6. How does Kushner interpret Genesis 1:1-2? What does he say it means to "create"?

7. What does Kushner say prevents people from believing in God's goodness?
8. Kushner left us with a choice between three ways of thinking about creation, God, and random chance (chaos). Which one of the following comes closest to what *you* believe? Why?
- i. The universe is a system unto itself, getting increasingly more random (chaotic) as time goes on – like a jar full of marbles will become if shaken over time.
  - ii. God's creative Spirit operates on the universe over millennia to bring order out of chaos.
  - iii. Creation is finished and still contains chaos that affects us and others, but we can be sustained and comforted by God, knowing that chaos and the suffering it causes is not God's will.