



## Skeptical “Evil & Suffering”

### Gather:

*Ever wonder what the goal of small groups are? Ultimately they are meant to equip you to daily, walk closer with Jesus, and to allow the Holy Spirit to work in you and through you to love and serve people well. Ask the following questions to see how it's going.*

- How am I doing loving the people God has given me to love over this past week?
- Why is God so good?
- What is something new that God has revealed to me this week about Himself or myself?

### Change:

- Think back to the message and share what theme, verse, or point stuck out the most? Why? \*\*\*Remember to bring your Update from the weekend to refresh your memory.
- We talked about evil and suffering this weekend. Have you struggled with this same question like Abby has? If so how?
- What do you think of the quote from famous atheist philosopher David Hume, “*Is he (God) willing to prevent evil, but not able? then he is impotent. (meaning he would like to but just can't) Is he able, but not willing? then he is malevolent (Just a big bully on an ant hill with a magnifying glass). Is he both able and willing? Then why evil? “*
- Abby shared other world views on evil & suffering. Had you heard any of those before? What do you think about what Ravi Zacharius concluded when he said “*you cannot have love without the freedom of the will, if you are compelled by some machine, due to a certain decision, you can never love, you can comply but you will never be choosing to express that sentiment and the reality of love.*”
- How does Jeremiah 29:11 speak to suffering and evil and not graduations as it's typically used?
- Read Romans 5:3-11 using the “Devotional Method”. (For the devotional method you read the passage and you meditate on it till the Holy Spirit shows you how to apply truths to your life. The goal is application not just interpretation.) Some points to consider while meditating on this.
  1. Spend time praying for insight on how to apply this truth to your life before you read.
  2. Work through it verse by verse.
  3. Meditate and share insights with each other.
- Food for thought... Are you more or less excited and/or aware now of your relationship with God than you were last week? Spiritual growth is an incremental process, but you

should see fruit. Just like healthy eating and exercise lead to a healthier body, spending time in spiritual disciplines lead to a healthier soul. Discuss where you are at and one step you can take to see growth.

- What else has God put on your heart to share with the group? This can be about this week's teaching or anything else going on in your life. Now is the time to share with those who care about you and love you.

**Serve:**

- This semester we want you to make it a priority to Love God and to Love others. We are asking you to commit to two things. #1 Apply the bible study methods you practice in small group during the rest of the week. INVEST in your relationship with God. #2 Get involved as a group and have an impact on this city! You will notice that we are highlighting and partnering with a few local organizations that are doing amazing things in Gainesville. If you don't already have people and places to impact in mind, join up with one of our Shift partners. We want to challenge you to spend at least one day/group time per month serving and loving those around you, and making a real impact on this city, all for the sake of the gospel. BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS!
- Step 3 of growth track this coming weekend. If you haven't attended the growth track, this is your invitation. Learn about why Shift does what it does, and your purpose in Christ.