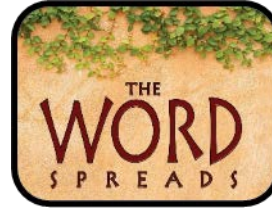


Tragedy: Reason to Doubt?



CASE STUDY 5

As Carter walked into his classroom, he heard the buzz of voices, but this was different from normal, subdued and more intense. There was no laughter. He looked around. Everyone looked pretty shaken; some even looked angry. Some were visibly crying. Taking a seat next to Jared, the man who had led him to the Lord and was discipling him, Carter mouthed, “What’s happened?”

Jared answered in a low, shaky voice. “We just got news that the Browns—those are our missionaries that we support in Africa—they were killed last night. Rebels stormed their compound and killed everyone—even the women and children. This is rough on our whole church. Jessica Brown grew up here. Her parents are the Amsels—you know them? Cody and Jessica did an internship here, and their oldest child, Rachel, was born while they were here. This has touched a lot of people,” he said, swallowing hard.

1. Identify the various responses. What would happen if each response went unaffected by knowledge of God and trust in Him?
2. How could the Bible study leader use Stephen’s martyrdom in Acts 7 to encourage his group in light of the Browns’ tragic deaths?
3. How do you react when you learn about tragic events in the lives of fellow believers?
4. How do you react when God brings tragic events into your own life?
5. What truths have you learned that reinforce your trust in God even when life doesn’t make sense, even when tragedies happen?