



LIFE Groups Sermon-Based Discussion Questions

[The Gospel of John: Believe](#)

“God’s Providence Is Your Inheritance”

John 9:24-41, for the week of Sunday, February 24, 2019

I. Talk about the problem of evil and suffering. Why do bad things happen to good people? Why do children get terminal diseases? Why is there so much gratuitous, horrible suffering in the world? How do you answer those who object to Christianity because of evil and suffering? Also, what are some of the most severe hardships you’ve personally experienced? Discuss and share; use Scripture when possible.

Supplemental material to help discussion from the sermon

•C.S. Lewis: *“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”*

II. Read vv24-41 together. Most Jews believed personal suffering was always, without exception, the result of personal sin (see 9:2). Why is this a dangerous position to hold? And how is this view similar to the “health and wealth gospel”? How is this false gospel devastating lives around the world and why should we firmly reject it?

III. Read vv28-29. Here we see the Pharisees’ unswerving commitment to their history and their traditions (while rejecting Jesus). In what ways are traditions good and useful? How can they be harmful? What are some religious traditions that lead people away from Christ and the authority and sufficiency of Scripture?

Supplemental material to help discussion from the sermon

•CrossLife, *always make Scripture your final authority --- not tradition, not personal experience, not your feelings on an issue --- but the Bible, and the Bible alone.*

--- Additional resources for further study ---

•C.S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*

•John Piper, *Suffering and the Sovereignty of God*

•R.C. Sproul, *Scripture Alone*

•Tim Keller, *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*