

WHERE IS GOD IN ALL OF THIS?

Finding God's Purpose in Our Suffering

by Deborah Howard

Discussion Date/Time

Thursday, July 12, from 7 – 9 p.m.

Location

26309 Cardinal Drive, Fair Oaks Ranch (Carolyn: 661-250-1621)

Discussion leaders

Carolyn McGuire and Karen Long (Karen: 818-535-9832)

Karen's suggested preparation

As I began reading this book again, I providentially found myself in the middle of a painful trial, urgently needing the clarity and answers offered by biblical counselor Deborah Howard. I'm so grateful I had the book in hand, and I believe it can become an invaluable tool in your life, too, and for those you're called to comfort. It's an interesting read packed with information and well worth taking time, if possible, to digest. So here's what I'd like to suggest for maximum benefit before our discussion:

1. Read the book carefully, one short chapter at a time (16 chapters total)
2. Highlight or underline thoughts that are especially helpful to you
(the author offers five questions at the end of each chapter for your personal review)
3. Use a 3 x 5 card for each chapter to write down the main ideas you highlighted
(please note page numbers for our discussion, and for your future reference)
4. On the back of each card, write out the verse at the beginning of that chapter

Thinking through these biblical concepts, while writing down key thoughts and Scripture, will help you see the scope of God's purposes and our response to suffering, and will help you better remember what you've read – great preparation for future trials. We will use the cards during our discussion, and also meditate on them in the days ahead, or save them for "spiritual emergencies." As the author suggests at the end of her final chapter, you can keep these index cards close at hand for review in the midst of "*the chaos of tribulation.*"