

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

STUMPED

FAITH QUESTIONS YOU STRUGGLE TO ANSWER

WEEK 6: SEPT 24-30

Loving God who sees us, remind us today that you are present in our lives.

We often struggle to understand why suffering and struggle exist in our world. As we search for answers, help us also search for hope. Remind us that you draw near to those who are experiencing pain, and that you are a God whose story always leads to hope. Amen.

TITLE: HOW DID GOD LET THIS HAPPEN?

SCRIPTURE: John 9:1-5

1 As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who was blind from birth. 2 Jesus' disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned so that he was born blind, this man or his parents?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents. This happened so that God's mighty works might be displayed in him. 4 While it's daytime, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

GETTING STARTED

- Welcome each other.
- Inquire as to anyone who is missing. Is follow-up needed?



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SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The question of "why did God let this happen?" is one that people have been wrestling with for generations. What are some current events or situations where you have personally asked this question or witnessed others trying to find meaning?
- We often think we will find comfort in an explanation, but God invites us to instead find comfort in who God is and how God works. Why do you think we often put so much emphasis on the "why"? What would change in our perspective if we shifted our focus to God's presence and action?
- Read this week's Scripture. There are three distinct players here: Jesus, The Disciples, and the Blind Man. Discuss who you identify with as you read this story and why.
- Read Jesus' response to the Disciple's question in verse 3. What do you think he means? What questions does this bring up for you?
- We can't stop bad things from happening in this world, but we can be an active participant in God's work in the world. What would participating in God's work mean for you? How could you engage with the suffering in the world in a way that displays the light that Jesus talks about?

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY- "I LOVE MY CITY"

I Love My City is tomorrow and It's not too late to sign up.

Check out the service project ideas, order a T-shirt, and roll up your sleeves. This day is going to make an IMPACT! Visit stlukesumc.com/ilovemycity

PRAYER REQUESTS