



## WHY DOES GOD ALLOW PAIN AND SUFFERING?

November 14, 2021 // Guest Speaker Megan Fate Marshman

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As we continue our series, "Asking for a Friend", we hear a powerful message from our special guest speaker, Megan Fate Marshman. She is the Director of Women's Ministries at Hume Lake Christian Camps and also serves at Arbor Road Church.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **READ Jeremiah 29:11.** God knows our future and His plans for us are good. This does not mean we will be spared pain, suffering or hardship. Do you ever struggle with this truth? Discuss.
2. **READ Jeremiah 29:12-14.** How do these verses make you feel about God's love for you?
3. **READ Romans 8:28-29.** How is Paul's definition of "good" in verse 29 (to be conformed to the image of his Son) different from the cultural definition of good?

**MEGAN'S NOTES:** Megan wanted to share these notes with the Small Groups and those who wish to dive deeper.

### God can use "all things"

God can use "all things" to further His good plans. He can use "all things" to conform us more into the image of His Son so we can partner with Him in the restoration of all things. God's plans for our lives are so much bigger and better than ours.

**QUESTION:** As you consider God using "all things" in your life for good, which part of your life comes to mind? What part of your life might God be wanting to use for good?

### Spiritual Formation

Spiritual formation is the process by which Christ is formed in us. It's not solely about gathering information, although information is part of the necessary fertilizer that allows spiritual formation to take root. Spiritual formation is also not defined by what we do or don't do. Rather, it depends upon what Christ is doing IN us. To be conformed to the image of Christ, we must discover truth and be willing to submit

our plans to God's plans. The appropriate response is not gripping harder and trying to control areas of our lives, it's opening up our hands in submission.

**QUESTION:**

How might Jesus be inviting you to open your hands and submit control of an area of your life to Him?

**Conform us to the image of His Son**

God can use all things "to conform us to the image of His Son." He can use our talents, our roles, our relationships, and even our trials for His glory and our good. God doesn't remove us from trials, He transforms us through them. "All things" can be meant for good.

**QUESTION:**

How might God be wanting to use the very things you're going through to conform you more into the likeness of Jesus? What could be your next best step? And how can we help?

**NEXT STEPS:** Are you ready to say YES to Jesus? Visit

<http://www.cpcdanville.org/yes/>