

*January 15, 2023*

# **NORTH METRO CHURCH**

---

Message Content



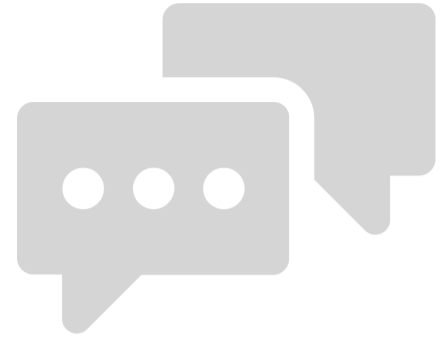
## MESSAGE OVERVIEW

### **Asking for a Friend**

People have questions about a lot of things in life. Many of those things revolve around God, faith, and the Bible. This series will attempt to answer some of the common questions that people often wonder about but may not be willing to ask outright.

LET'S DISCUSS

# Asking for a friend – week 2



---

## Discussion Questions

Some suggest that since evil exists, either God is not powerful to stop it or that it is evidence that God does not exist. If there is no God, shouldn't injustice be the norm? How does the problem of evil actually argue for the existence of God?

Think of a time where you faced a serious trial or suffering. What were the biggest questions you wrestled with? Did you feel closer to God or further from him?

Have you ever seen someone who was suffering extraordinarily but demonstrated extraordinary confidence in God? If so, how did it change the way you think about suffering and faith?

If someone asked you the question, why does God allow suffering, how would you respond? Read 2 Cor 4:7-10. How does our suffering and weakness focus our attention where it needs to be?

Can you think of examples from the Bible of people that God allowed to go through suffering so that they would realize their need for Him? Why is it sometimes suffering is the way God chooses to get our attention? How does our choice to suffer well affect our witness to the world? (Phil 1:12-14)

What is the greater purpose for all of our suffering? Does Romans 8:28 mean that every situation of suffering is going to have a happy ending or full resolution here on earth? Read Rom 8:18 and 2 Cor 4:17. How do these verses guide us in our response to suffering?

What was Jesus' priority while he was on the earth? How does that guide us in our Christian lives? Read Eph 5:15-16.

Christianity presents the unprecedented notion of a suffering God. God understands. Why must we as Christians never wrestle with "the problem of evil" without first connecting it to the gospel—God entering His creation and experiencing suffering as a human being on the cross to overcome evil?

God promises to ultimately judge and remove all evil. Why does He wait, and how does knowing what He will do affect our waiting?

Looking back at this week's teaching and study, is there one thing you'd especially like to remember this week?