



good.

What does it mean to call God good?

What does it mean to call God good in the midst of violence?

What does it mean to call God good in the midst of death and destruction?

What does it mean to sing songs that say things like:

God is perfect,

God never fails,

God never will let us down,

God is a good father,

in the midst of mass shootings and terror?

In the midst of brokenness and unrest?

I do not know.

But it hurts. But there is hope even here.

Not the kind of hope that says 'this too shall pass' or 'everything happens for a reason' or the kind that forgets a verse like Jeremiah 29:11 was written to a people that was about to die in exile.

Not the kind of hope that is waiting for a return to ignorant triumphalism or false exceptionalism.

But a hope that remembers our savior was a beaten savior. Our savior was one who was ripped open, mocked and finally crucified.

It is days like these that I am reminded that today, God is not the god of victors, God is not the god on the mountain top.

I am reminded that God is in the midst of his broken people. Groaning and crying, lamenting and mourning with his children who have just lost everything, who cannot see through their tears, who cannot wake up from this nightmare.

God is not good because he is mighty and unmoving.

God is good because he breaks with and for those he loves.

Us.



continue the conversation questions:

What are the kinds of things that you think about or do when hearing about events like mass shootings or other tragic events?

How do you normally deal with or process tragic or difficult situations in your personal life or in the world around you?

Is it generally harder or easier to see God in the midst of tragic events or difficult seasons of life?



a place to start:

[**job 38-42**] - conversation between God & job

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.” [**genesis 50:20**]

“What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won’t he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God’s right hand, pleading for us. Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. [**romans 8:31-39**]

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord’s favor has come, and with it, the day of God’s anger against their enemies. To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the Lord has planted for his own glory. [**isaiah 61:1-3**]

