

Even If He Doesn't Discussion Questions

1. Think about a time you experienced significant heartache or the heartache you are currently experiencing. What has your heartache revealed about what you believe about suffering and God's role in it? How have you engaged with what was revealed?
2. What are the potential causes of suffering? What is the danger of trying to pinpoint a reason for every type of suffering?
3. If someone made a choice that caused their own suffering, do they deserve the same compassion and empathy as someone who had no control over their circumstances? Why or why not?
4. Have you ever withheld compassion from someone because you didn't think they deserved it? Looking back, how might you have handled that situation or relationship differently?
5. How can we engage with our pain in healthy ways?
6. Have you ever had someone sit with you in your pain, like Job's friends did in the first seven days of his suffering? (Take a look at Job 2 for context.) How did their presence impact you?
7. What does it cost us to step closer and engage with the pain of someone who is suffering?
8. When is it a good thing to let our circumstances change the way we view God? When is it harmful?
9. Where do you believe God is in your pain? How does he engage with it, comfort it, or offer solutions for it? Is he ambivalent, present, or acting on your behalf?
10. How have you seen the glory of God reflected in your hardships? How have you seen God's glory reflected in other people's hardships?
11. Does Christ's willingness to show his grief help you feel more comfortable in expressing your own grief? Why or why not?
12. How have you experienced God turning your mourning into dancing?
13. Think of a time you engaged with questions and doubts about what you believe. What is

the risk of doing so? What is the reward?

14. In what ways has suffering impacted your prayers? What is the purpose of prayer when you're suffering?

15. In what ways has your view of suffering changed after reading this book? The next time you face heartache, how might your experience and perspective be different?