

QUESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

1. Tell your story. Describe a time in your life when you heard something shocking on the news. Do you remember where you were when you heard the news? How did you respond to it?

2. What do you think is the most important thing you can do for a person who is going through a crisis? Why?

3. Read the following passages and note the Bible says about dealing with tragedy?
 - a) Psalm 34:18
 - b) Psalm 46:1-3
 - c) Psalm 121:1-2
 - d) Lamentations 3:31-33
 - e) John 16:33
 - f) Romans 12:19
 - g) James 1:2-4

4. How are tragic situations in life an opportunity for spiritual growth?

5. What practical application are you going to make from this week's message? (*Share your decision with another person.*)
 - ☐ I am going to pray for the families affected by these recent tragic events.
 - ☐ I am going to reach out to someone I know going through a crisis and encourage them.
 - ☐ I am going to memorize James 1:2-4.

Cornerstone Church
Isaiah 57:1

September 21, 2025
Special Message

Trying to Understand God in the Tragedies of Life

I. Introduction

A. Tragic Stories

- The Murder of Iryna Zarutka
- The Shooting at the Church of the Annunciation
- The Assassination of Charlie Kirk

B. The “Why” Question

(See Job 7:20; Psalm 10:3; Habakkuk 1:3; Psalm 73:12-16; Matthew 27:46; Psalm 22:1)

C. Taking Time to Reflect

(See Proverbs 18:13; Proverbs 15:28; James 1:19-20; II Corinthians 10:5; Proverbs 17:28-29; Proverbs 18:2; Proverbs 10:19; Proverbs 17:14; Proverbs 1:1-2)

II. Trying to Understand God in the Tragedies of Life

Passage of Study Isaiah 57:1

A. Trying to Understand the “Why” Question Rarely Satisfies

(See Job 42:3-6; Isaiah 55:8-9; I Corinthians 2:16;
Romans 11:34; Isaiah 40:13; Genesis 50:20; Proverbs 16:4;
Hebrews 11:1; Jeremiah 31:3; Job 13:15 NKJV)

¹ The righteous man perishes, and no man takes it to heart;
And devout men are taken away, while no one understands.

B. Tragedies Remind Us This Earthly Life is Short

(See Genesis 47:8-9 NLT; Psalm 90:10; Ecclesiastes 1:2;
Psalm 90:12; Ephesians 5:15-16; Mark 6:31; Isaiah 57:1-2)

C. Tragedies are an Opportunity for Spiritual Growth

(See Romans 2:15; Romans 9:1; Ezekiel 18:23; Ezekiel 33:11;
II Kings 21:1; II Kings 21:9; II Kings 21:16;
II Chronicles 33:13; Romans 12:19; Deuteronomy 32:35;
Hebrews 11:30)

III. Conclusion

(See Romans 13:1-7; Matthew 5:44-47; Romans 12:21;
II Peter 3:9)

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Christian, or if you would like to talk with someone or have someone pray for you, please see the pastor after the service and he or one of our church leaders will be glad to speak with you.

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