

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of September 13, 2015

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Common English Bible (CEB)

¹⁹ *I call heaven and earth as my witnesses against you right now: I have set life and death, blessing and curse before you. Now choose life—so that you and your descendants will live—²⁰ by loving the LORD your God, by obeying his voice, and by clinging to him. That’s how you will survive and live long on the fertile land the LORD swore to give to your ancestors: to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.*

Connection Questions:

1. When people try to assure others by the phrase "Everything happens for a reason," they are typically trying to make people feel better. Do you like using this phrase? What do you think people mean by the phrase?

2. Some people see God as a "micromanager" of the world –God's hands on every thought, stoplight change, or storm. Others see God as an absentee landlord who created the world, set up its rules such as gravity, atmospheric pressure, DNA replication, and then no longer interferes. How do these two views collide? What implications do they have on freedom of choice, prayer, miracles?

3. In our scripture Deuteronomy 30:19-20, Moses is describing that we have freedom of choice in life. Some theologians say our choices come down to two categories: obey God and disobey God. Do you agree or disagree with this categorization. If not, how would you categorize our freedom of choices?

4. Try to define "good" in Romans 8:28. Clearly, it does not mean comfort or ease or health or prosperity. So what does it mean here?

5. When Paul says "all things," what kinds of things does he have in mind?