

# Small Group Discussion Questions



// Week of January 28, 2024

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## LEADER INFO

- Baptism
  - Sunday, February 11
  - To sign up, text "DUNK" to 604-670-3040

**GROW** This section is based on the sermon from Sunday. You can find it here: <https://www.southsidelife.com/>

**ICE BREAKER** What is one highlight and one lowlight of your week?

## Cause and Effect

*"The first time Jesus came to Earth, He came to restore my soul. The next time He comes, it will be to restore everything else."*

### Read

#### Revelation 21:1-5

*I saw Heaven and earth new-created. Gone the first Heaven, gone the first earth, gone the sea.*

<sup>2</sup>*I saw Holy Jerusalem, new-created, descending resplendent out of Heaven, as ready for God as a bride for her husband.*

<sup>3-5</sup>*I heard a voice thunder from the Throne: "Look! Look! God has moved into the neighborhood, making his home with men and women! They're his people, he's their God. He'll wipe every tear from their eyes. Death is gone for good—tears gone, crying gone, pain gone—all the first order of things gone." The Enthroned continued, "Look! I'm making everything new. Write it all down—each word dependable and accurate."*

## 1. Cause and Effect is: Always Directional

- a. When was the last time you ignored the law of cause and effect?
  - \*\*Can be funny or serious! (ie. eating dairy when you know you're lactose intolerant or speeding so you got pulled over... etc.)
- b. Do you ever feel like God is punishing you?
- c. "Did God make my relationship fall apart because I'm watching porn? Is God punishing me?"
  - i. That's like saying "Did God break my legs because I went skydiving without a parachute?"
    - 1. Discuss.
- d. Take some time as a group to discuss the "Fruit of the Spirit": love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
  - i. What do you need more of and how are you going to sow more of it into your life in this next season?

## 2. Cause and Effect is: Sometimes Delayed

- a. We judge everyone else by their actions and ourselves by our intentions (ie. "but I didn't mean that!")
  - i. Discuss
- b. Why do you think 'bad' things happen to "good\*" people? Why do you think "good" things happen to "bad" people?
  - \*\*note to leaders, don't instruct here! Just let your group answer honestly. The explanation and opportunity to clarify that "thoroughly good" people don't exist, apart from Jesus, is coming further down in the study!

### 3. Cause and Effect is: Completely Divine

- a. Every effect has a cause, and cause always comes before effect. Therefore, there has to have been a FIRST CAUSE: the “un-caused cause”, before every other cause and effect to come.

i. *Read Genesis 1:*

*God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness.*

1. Who or what was the uncaused cause?
  - a. How does that help your understanding of all the unseen “laws” that govern our world?

b. *Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn*

- i. ***“The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either -- but **right through every human heart** -- and through all human hearts. This line shifts. Inside us, it oscillates with the years. And even within hearts overwhelmed by evil, one small bridgehead of good is retained”***

1. You and I are not thoroughly good. You've never met a good person. We've all planted sin in our soul, for which the “harvest” is death.
  - a. Discuss

- c. Jesus is the only thoroughly good person who has ever lived. He planted righteousness, for which the harvest is LIFE. And then He swapped our effect (death) for His effect (life).

- i. He took on our sin and gave us his righteousness.

ii. *Ephesians 2:8:*

*“For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not of yourselves. It is the Gift of God so that no one may boast”*

- a. Discuss

iii. *2 Corinthians 5:21*

*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

- a. Discuss

- i. So then again, why do bad things happen to good people?
  - 1. First, there is no such thing as a good person
  - 2. We live in a broken world. Cause and Effect: all the death, destruction, sin and brokenness in the world, entered when we chose sin over God's righteousness.
    - a. The only way to truly live well in this broken world is to take hold of Jesus' righteousness, and walk out His plan for our lives.
    - b. Despite all the bad things that happen in this world, we hold tight to God's promise of His nearness in this world with us, and a beautiful, pain-free eternity with Him in the next.

**PRAY**