

The Gospel Project for Adults, Summer 2016  
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults for Session 11

**Introduction:** *Consider the “Why, God?” questions.*

Show the clip “Why Did This Happen?” (3 minutes, 3 seconds) from the movie *Soul Surfer*: <http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/soul-surfer/why-did-this-happen>

Point out some of the questions that Bethany asked: Why did this happen? What am I supposed to do now? (Her father says, “I don’t know.”) How am I supposed to know?

Challenge learners to consider trying times and tragedies in their own lives. Ask, “When did you ask these questions? What other questions did you ask when you felt hopeless?” Direct learners to the questions on page 101 of the Personal Study Guide for more examples.

Say something like, “At some point, almost everyone will ask these questions—even the wisest and wealthiest man to ever live, Solomon, asked them. We can learn much from his writings in Ecclesiastes.”

**Point 1:** *Share a visual of hopelessness.*

Show learners this comic strip:  
<http://www.thecomicstrips.com/store/add.php?iid=119628>

Say something like, “You know you’ve been there. Whether you were overwhelmed by family, relationships, sin, tragedy, trials, work, politics, weather, stress, or a myriad of other things, you’ve felt like this. You were overwhelmed to the point of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual exhaustion.”

Ask, “What do you do when things feel hopeless? Who or what brings you hope in these times?”

**Point 2:** *Analyze current events.*

Bring several sections of newspaper (front page and local news) from the past week. Distribute those to several volunteers. Ask, “What are we more likely to see in the world around us: justice or injustice?” Invite the volunteers to share the headlines in their papers that detail injustice and evil.

Ask, “What do we do, say, think, and believe when our world seems so corrupt? What *should* we do, say, think, and believe?” Invite volunteers to share Scriptures that give them assurance of God’s justice. Read Isaiah 25:1-10 aloud.

**Conclusion: *Close with Augustine.***

Distribute a card from Pack Item 9 to each learner (see Leader Guide, page 129). If you do not have a leader pack for Summer 2016, distribute index cards and provide time for learners to write the following quote from the church father Augustine: “You made us for Yourself, and our heart is restless until it finds its place in You.” Provide 60 seconds of silence for learners to ponder the truth of this quote.

Point out that God made us to ask deep questions and *not* find answers in our world; we find answers only in Him and His presence in our lives.

Direct learners back to the questions on page 101. Challenge them to restate the questions in such a way that they seek God’s face in light of the questions.

**Teaching Tip of the Week**

Take the questions from page 101 and ask them to a young child this week. Share the child’s answers with the class. Read Luke 18:17 aloud and encourage learners to accept childlike faith regarding God’s creation and the events in their own lives.