



# Did God Cause This?

## GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Discussion

1. When you hear statements like “Everything happens for a reason” or “It must have been God’s will,” what thoughts or feelings come to mind? How have you heard people use these phrases?

2. What resonated with you from Sunday’s worship?

**Read Matthew 18:10-14.**

3. What details in this teaching by Jesus catch your attention? What questions does it raise for you? What does this passage reveal is Jesus’s desire?

**Read Matthew 23:37-39 and John 10:10.**

4. What do you notice about Jesus’ words and emotions in these passages? What do they suggest to you about his relationship with people and his desires for them?

5. How would you describe the kind of life Jesus wants people to experience? Which words or phrases from these passages inform your answer?

**Read Genesis 1:26-31 and 3:14-19.**

6. What does God value in creation? Going line by line, what do the curses suggest was the intention before the Fall?

7. How do these passages shape or challenge your understanding of God’s character and what God wants for the world?

8. In the Lord’s Prayer, we pray, “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” What does this prayer mean to you? What does it suggest about the relationship between God’s intentions and the world as we experience it?

9. What would a life look like that was in pursuit of God’s Intentional Will?

**Weatherhead’s  
Will of God**  
Intentional  
Circumstantial  
Ultimate

**Matthew 18:14**

In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

**John 10:10**

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

### Next Steps

- **Love Jesus:** Read ahead for next Sunday - Matthew 26:36-46
- **Connect with Others:** Choose a passage from this week’s readings to discuss with a friend or fellow group member. What questions or insights emerge as you talk about it?
- **Serve the World:** Consider how you could contribute to the well-being of someone in your family, workplace, neighborhood, or community. And do it!
- **Reach the Lost:** Consider someone who may have questions about God or faith. How could you create space for an honest conversation without feeling that you need to have all the answers?

Love Jesus. Connect with Others. Serve the World. Reach the Lost.