

## Everything Happens for a Reason

Romans 8:28-37

1. Talk about a time something happened in your life that was painful or disappointing. Can you identify anything good that came from that experience?
2. While it is true to say, "everything happens for a reason," it is important that we try to discover the specific reasons why something happens. Why would this be important and helpful?
3. Pastor Mark suggests that God allows us to experience the consequences of our choices so that we can learn wisdom. Can you recall something God taught you by allowing you to experience consequences?
4. What are two or three pieces of wisdom you would like young people (under age 20) to learn that would help them as they become adults? How did you learn these lessons?
5. Read Galatians 6:7. Why is it important to ask the question, "What is God trying to teach me?" when we experience pain, frustration or disappointment?
6. Sometimes, when we suffer a loss or disappointment of some kind, it is because God is "pruning" us. Can you recall a time when perhaps God was pruning you?
7. Read John 15:1-2. Why do you think God prunes things out of our lives sometimes?
8. In his book, "Necessary Endings," Dr. Henry Cloud writes: "Getting to the next level always requires ending something. Growth itself demands that we move on." In what way has that been true in your life?
9. When we don't get something we want or we lose something we once had, do you think it is helpful to ask, "Why might God be pruning this from my life?" Why or why not?
10. Read Romans 8:28. Why is it important to allow God to teach us and prune us?