

A 9/11 for 9/11



FINDING ANSWERS *to the* EVIL of SEPTEMBER 11, 2001



The
READING GUIDE

The following discussion questions are intended to help you engage with the ideas expressed in *A 9/11 for 9/11: Finding Answers to the Evil of September 11, 2001*. The hope is that these questions, and your wrestlings with them, will embolden you to live a braver and freer life.

1. Where were you and what were you doing on September 11, 2001?
2. What did you think and feel when you first heard the news of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and heard that a plane had crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania?
3. What do you think and feel about 9/11 today? How are your thoughts and feelings similar or dissimilar to those on the day of the tragedy?

4. How important is it as an individual, a family, and nation, to remember or commemorate the anniversary of 9/11?
5. Did you ask the question of where God was on 9/11? If so, what answer(s) did you find?
6. What do you think of the atheist's confession of hopelessness on page 12? What would or could you say to him to offer some hope?
7. Derrick contends that the Christian faith must reconcile the truth that evil is real with the truths that God is all-good and all-powerful. Failure to do so is to leave those who suffer without encouragement or hope. How would you reconcile these truths?
8. What do you make of Epicurus's argument about God's inability and/or unwillingness to prevent or do something about evil in the world?
9. Without a doubt evil is a profound mystery. But what do you think of Os Guinness's warning on page 16 about hiding behind the mystery?
10. The message that God made the world good, but we made the world bad is not a popular one — especially the last part. What do you think of this message? How might you communicate this message to others?

11. Scripture is clear — God intervenes in the lives of His people. Where have you seen God intervene in your own life? How does thinking about these episodes bring encouragement and hope?
12. What do you think of Dorothy Sayers's observation on page 20 as an answer to evil and suffering? What, if anything, might you add?
13. What do you make of the parable of the resistance leader as an answer to evil and suffering?
14. Of the three aspects of God's answer to evil and suffering — that God made the world good, we made the world bad, and He will make it good again; that no other god sheds tears or bears scars; and that the Resistance Leader knows what he is doing and victory is assured — which do you think is the strongest answer? Which do you think is the weakest answer? Why?
15. Having read *A 9/11 for 9/11*, what answer would you *now* give to the question of where God was on that tragic day? How might your answer encourage others when they face days of evil and suffering in the future?

***A 911 for 9/11:
Finding Answers to the Evil of September 11, 2001***

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