REFLECTION GUIDE
1.7.24

INTRO

The phrase "everything happens for a reason" holds a half-truth. In this world, there is some cause for every effect. This common assumption--that everything that happens on earth is God's will--is not Biblical.

THOUGHTS

PRAYER

King Jesus, I want to sow love, caring, and light through my choices each day. Keep me growing into a person who is a cause of good effects in the lives of others. Thank you for always giving me your love and grace for the times when I make selfish choices. Teach me to be more like you. Amen.

DIGGING DEEPER

- When have you seen your choices create a positive effect on someone's life?

- When have you seen your choices create a negative effect on someone else's life?

- Some bad effects, like severe storms, are "just the way life works." In Paul's teaching, we find that in other cases, our choices can cause bad effects. Galatians 6:7-10 says, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." [NIV]
  - What stands out to you about this passage?
  - Why do you think Paul uses the analogy of sowing and reaping to describe the effects of our choices?

- Reflecting on the times when your negative choices impacted someone else, would you say that it was God's doing? Why or why not?

- Have you ever "become weary in doing good"? What is one way you can renew your energy to make choices that show love and kindness to others?

WC