



# At the Movies

## When Things Go Wrong

#npmovies

Week 2

2 of 5

June 30, 2019

**Bottom Line:** Your purpose must be bigger than your problems.

**Icebreaker:** What was the last movie you watched in a theater? What's your rating? What do you think was the purpose of the movie?

**Key Verse:** *You, Lord, give perfect peace to those who keep their **purpose** firm and put their trust in you.*  
Isaiah 26:3 TEV

**Jurassic World** is a story about misunderstandings and problems that could have been corrected, but they were overlooked. As we observed on Sunday, if the movie characters even watched the first movie, they would have known to change some plans, because dinosaurs eat people! ☺ God's purpose in our problems is to use our problems for our good. Problems are inevitable, unpredictable, impartial, and consistent. They are common to everyone, but our response makes the difference.

God's intent is to use problems to grow us. Problems can **direct** us and show us what to do next. They show us new decisions we need to make. Problems **inspect** us, showing us our motives and true agendas. Problems may be a signal that we are off track; they can **correct** us. Have you ever seen where sometimes what happened because of the problem in place of the original plan turned out better? Sometimes God uses problems to **protect** us. Sometimes problems don't happen because we did something wrong but because we did something right. An incredible reality also is that God uses problems to **perfect us**. God is so interested in our future and our success. He wants to shape us to be like Christ. But we cannot have the product without the process.

We all have problems. God doesn't want us to waste them. As the old proverb says, "Sometimes our disappointments are God's appointments." Problems are inevitable. But our problems are not our biggest challenge. The biggest challenge is how we respond to them. My prayer needs to be, "God, what do I need to see? To know? How do I need to grow and change? In this situation, through my problem, do what is most needed in my life as I cooperate with You. Amen."

### THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from today's message?

Life is a series of problem-solving opportunities. The problems you face will either defeat you or develop you, depending on how you respond to them. Discuss.

Most people fail to see how God wants to use problems for good in their lives. They react foolishly and resent their problems rather than pausing to consider what benefit they might bring. When has God used a problem for good in your life?

How do I avoid problems? is the wrong question. The right question is, "How do I face the problems with God's help?"

"God wants to use your problems to grow you. God isn't the source of all your problems, but He can use them for your good." Is this hard to believe, or hard to accept?

### LOOK IT OVER >>>

"We only learn through pain" (Aristotle). Agree or disagree? Why?

Problems never leave you in the same place. Reflect and discuss. How can you make sure they take you forward and not backward?

God uses problems to check out our character and motives. He uses them to find out what is really in our heart. How do problems reveal that truth? Do you think God really needs problems for HIM to know what is in our hearts, or do the problems prove to US what is really in our hearts? Why or why not?

God doesn't punish His children; He corrects them. How can you explain that difference?

"Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world" (C. S. Lewis). When has God used pain to awaken you?

## NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Consider what problems you have faced in the last six months. Can you tell what God wants to do with you through them?
- 2) Consider your current purpose. Is it big enough to keep you persevering through your problems?
- 3) Pray for someone who is in the middle of problems right now. Pray for the willingness to pray, "What are you wanting me to learn, God?"

## EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Your purpose must be bigger than your problems.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: Psalm 119:71-72

Tuesday: James 1:2-4

Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 3:8-11

Thursday: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Friday: 1 Peter 4:12-13

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***  
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)