



**September 28, 2023**

### **Social Time**

### **Thanks to those who provided Treats**

### **Bible Study Business**

- Volunteers to read women Bible characters

### **Music – Led by Lisa Scholterback**

- ELW 860 *I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*
- ELW 631 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*
- ELW 840 *Now Thank We All Our God*

### **Prayer Requests and Update Prayer List**

### **Opening Prayer**

### **Book Discussion**

#### **Finishing Up Chapter 7 – A few thoughts on prayer**

1. Rabbi Kushner's thoughts on prayer come from his Jewish faith perspective and from his lived experience of having a child with a tragic illness. How might that shape his perspectives on prayer?
2. As Christians, we have the example of Jesus and the New Testament. What difference might this make in our perspective on prayer?
3. What are our experiences of answered prayer?
4. Does not getting the answer we want mean God doesn't answer our prayers?

#### **Chapter 8 – What Good Then is Religion?**

5. Kushner writes p. 147 "I believe in God. But I do not believe the same things about Him that I did years ago... I recognize his limitations."
  - What do you think about Rabbi Kushner's notion of God's limitations?
  - How has your understanding of God changed as you have matured in your faith?

6. Kushner believes p. 149 “Let me suggest that the bad things that happen to us in our lives do not have a meaning when they happen... but we can give them meaning We can redeem these tragedies from senselessness by imposing meaning on them.”
  - How does our response to tragedy affect the meaning it has for better or worse?
7. Do you agree with Kushner p. 149 “The question we should be asking is not, ‘Why did this happen to me? What did I do to deserve this?’ That is really an unanswerable, pointless question. A better question would be ‘Now that this has happened to me, what am I going to do about it?’
8. Kushner believes God neither kills nor cures people, he neither causes nor prevents tragedies, but that God inspires other people to help so that we don’t feel so alone, and he gives us the strength and courage to face life’s hardships.
  - How does this fit with your understanding of God and your experience?
9. Kushner writes p. 161 “The question of why bad things happen to good people translates itself into some very different questions, no longer asking why something happened, but asking how we will respond, what we intend to do now that it has happened.”
  - As you face bad things in life, how is this message helpful, or not?
10. What is the most helpful thing you will take from having read and discussed this book?

Conclusion pp. 161 - 162 – Forgiveness and Love (a nice place to end)

## **Feedback on Book Study**

### **Birthdays**

### **Closing Prayer – Lord’s Prayer**