

The God Questions
“Why Is There Evil And Suffering?”
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Rich Sherwood
April 23, 2023

Big Idea: Love requires freedom and freedom invites suffering.

Genesis 2:15-17 NIV

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

Notes: _____

Genesis 3:6 NIV

“When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.”

Notes: _____

Matthew 5:44

“But I tell you Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute!”

Notes: _____

James 1:27 NIV

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

Notes: _____

Next Right Steps:

- Receive God’s free gift of salvation.
- Examine your own life to see where you may cause hurt.
- Look for ways that you may be a blessing to those who are hurting.

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Open in Prayer.

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

Start sharing. Choose questions that create openness.

Big Idea: Faith is a reasonable step in the same direction that the evidence is pointing. - Lee Strobel

Review Acts 1:3 as a remember verse. How does knowing Jesus died for our sins and rose again help you when you are going through difficult times?

Discussion Questions: (Choose how many questions you would like to discuss)

Why Is There Evil And Suffering?

1. Our Choices Have Consequences Both For Us And Others.

Read Romans 5:12.

How did God create the world?

What brought death into the world?

Read Genesis 4:6-7.

What is God's counsel to Cain?

Did Cain have a choice?

Read Galatians 6:7-8.

Have you reaped the consequences of a bad choice? Have others?

How can our choices affect others?

How Can I Respond To Evil And Suffering To Keep From Being Cynical?

1. Understand, God Gives Time For Repentance, But Judgment Is Coming.

Read 2 Peter 3:9

Why is God waiting to return to rescue us and punish the wicked?

Read Romans 2:4-6

How has God been kind, tolerant and patient with you?

Are you responding to God's kindness? How?

2. Trust God Is In Control In What Seems To Be Out Of Control.

Read Genesis 50:15-21.

How is Joseph's response to what his brothers did different than most people?

Read Romans 8:28.

What bad thing in your life has God turned around to be good?

3. Care For The Needs Of Others.

Read Psalm 82:4.

If we serve a loving God, then what must we do?

Read James 2:14-17.

If doing good doesn't save us, then why are good works important?

4. Release Our Pain And Receive God's Comfort Through Jesus.

Read John 16:33. How does Jesus encourage us in this verse?

Read Hebrews 2:16-18.

Write down a few things that Jesus went through in order to understand us and become our merciful Savior.

Is there anything in your life that Jesus cannot relate to?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:4.

Has God comforted you in an area? Who can you comfort?

➤ **What is God asking you to do in response to evil and suffering?**

Close in Prayer: Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.