

Why Does God Allow Evil/Suffering

Asking for a Friend

Discussion Questions

- Have you or any of your friends ever asked why God allows evil and suffering in the world?
 - What prompted you to ask that question?
 - What is the kind of suffering or evil you see in the world today that might make you shake your head in disbelief?
- Why would this question be big barrier for some when it comes to embracing Christianity?
- Why is answering this question of evil and suffering in the world actually a bigger hurdle for those committed to an atheistic worldview?
- Read **Genesis 2:15-17**.
 - What is the context of this passage?
 - What can we know about freedom and humanity in this section?
 - If mankind was created with free moral agency, what does that tell us about evil?
 - Why would many, if not most, believe this to be the most preferable way to create humanity?
 - At least at some level, what can we say about how evil entered the creation?
 - What is the extent of the fall based on this verse? How does it go past man and women?
- Read **Isaiah 53:3-6**.
 - What does this prophesy about Jesus tell us concerning Christ, evil, and suffering?
 - What does it mean that Jesus was called the “man of sorrows” and “one acquainted with grief”?
 - What other verses stand out to you in the passage? Why?
 - How did Jesus intersect the evil and suffering of the world?
 - What does this tell us about God and evil/suffering?
- Read **Revelation 21:1 and 21:4**.
 - What is the picture painted of the future when Jesus returns with the fullness of his kingdom at the end of the age?
 - What does this tell us about evil and suffering in the full scope of redemptive history?
 - How can this picture of the end strengthen us in times of despair and questioning when enduring hard times?
- Why is it important that God’s answer to the question of why is there evil and suffering in the world not a principle but a person?
 - Why does God choose not to give us every answer to this question?
 - Where is this most challenging for you when it comes to the question of evil/suffering in the world (or in your world)?
- Which of the gospel identities (citizen, family, missionary) does this message most intersect and why?