

HOW CAN A GOOD GOD ALLOW EVIL?

EPISODE 3: THE GOODNESS OF PAIN

look back

First, **LOOK BACK** at the past week by asking, “How did we do?” Begin with prayer, then check in with one another—sharing honestly, celebrating victories, acknowledging struggles, and graciously offering practical help.

 **PRAYER** - Begin with prayer, inviting Jesus into the conversation.

Follow Up on Last Episode's Assignment

Last week, we explored the truth that God didn't create evil—He created love, and love requires freedom.

- How did your time of reflection on free will and choice go?
- What insights did God show you about using your freedom to love Him and others?
- Were there any areas where the Holy Spirit challenged or encouraged you?

look up

Next, **LOOK UP** to God's Word by asking, “What does Jesus want us to know?” If you haven't already, watch this week's video: “*The Goodness of Pain*.” Then use the “What Do You Think?” and “What Does God's Word Say?” sections to draw out the main truths together.

 **WATCH:**How Can a Good God Allow Evil?: The Goodness of Pain

Episode Summary

In this final episode, Dr. Bob explores why God allows pain and how suffering can reveal His love. From Job's trials to Jesus' cross, Scripture shows that love often proves itself most deeply in times of pain.

Jesus might remind us that pain is not God's punishment, it's His early warning system that something is wrong and needs healing. Physical pain tells us when to seek help, and emotional pain alerts us to brokenness that only God can mend.

Suffering becomes the furnace where faith is refined and love is proven. Job's faith held firm not in comfort, but in loss. Jesus' love was proven not only in His miracles, but even more so on the cross. Pain, then, is not the absence of God's love but the evidence of it, a reminder that we were made for something better, and that only Jesus can make us whole.

It's in suffering that we measure true love.

HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

Whether you're studying on your own or with a group, each guide follows a simple yet powerful rhythm: **Look Back/ Look Up / Look Forward**. For group leaders, additional instructions for leading a small group are included at the end of the first workbook in each series.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

This series explores one of the most difficult questions people ask about faith: ***If God is good, why does He allow evil and suffering?*** Each episode will help you think biblically and compassionately about this issue so you can grow in faith and confidently discuss it with others. The final study guide in this series includes Discussion Starters designed to help you share these videos and start meaningful conversations with your children, grandchildren, and friends.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Job's story shows faith that holds on when everything falls apart. When have you seen someone—or yourself—cling to God through suffering?
2. How does the idea that pain can be a healing gift challenge how you view suffering and lead to a greater trust in God?
3. How does the idea of pain as a warning system reshape your view of life's challenges?
4. God does not see our suffering from afar, but through Jesus He enters into it. How does that help us face our own pain or walk with others in theirs?
5. How difficult seasons in your life shaped your faith or deepened your compassion for others?
6. How can pointing to Jesus' suffering and love for us help us present the Gospel and introduce people to a personal relationship with Christ?

WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Romans 5:3–5 “Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” God uses pain to shape us into people of hope—suffering isn’t wasted when it draws us closer to Him.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 17:17 “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.” True love is proven in hardship—both in human relationships and in God’s love for us.

Psalm 119:71 “It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.” Pain can be a teacher that points us back to God’s truth and grace.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

James 1:2–4

Hebrews 4:15

1 Peter 2:21

Revelation 21:4

Look forward

Finally, **LOOK FORWARD** by asking, “What does Jesus want us to do?” Commit to practical steps for living out this lesson. Review the assignment, share commitments with the group, pray for one another, and move forward together in faith and hope.

THIS EPISODE'S ASSIGNMENT

This week, take what you’ve learned through this series and look for an opportunity to share this topic—or your own story of faith and suffering—with a younger loved one or friend. Use the **Discussion Starters** below and listen with compassion. Be ready to share how Jesus has met you in your struggles and how He continues to bring healing and hope.

PERSONAL GROWTH COMMITMENTS



- What has God laid on my heart?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading me to change?
- What will I do in my own life, in my relationships, and to reach NextGen loved ones?



SHARE WITH THE GROUP

Encourage sharing commitments, prayer needs, and real-life stories. Close in prayer, thanking Jesus for walking with us through suffering, for turning pain into purpose, and for using our lives to point others toward His redeeming love.

HOW CAN A GOOD GOD ALLOW EVIL?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Watch video
together,
then discuss!



Scan QR Code Or Visit:
go.legacyimperative.org/godandevil

QUESTIONS FOR TEENS & ADULTS

1. Why do you think pain and injustice in the world make it harder for some people to believe in God?
2. Have you ever wondered where God is when hard things happen, in your life or in the world?
3. Why do you think God allows pain and struggle instead of stopping it all right now?
4. Why do you think love and freedom have to go together? Could there be real love without real choice?
5. Have you ever seen something good come from something really difficult or painful?
6. How does it change your perspective to think that pain might sometimes be a way God helps us grow or heal?
7. Why do you think some people find faith through suffering while others turn away from it?
8. What does it tell you about Jesus that He also suffered and felt pain, fear, and rejection?
9. What do you think it says about God's heart that He chose to enter our broken world instead of staying distant from it?
10. If Jesus truly understands what we go through, how could that help you or someone you love face life's hard moments?

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

1. Why do you think some people have a hard time believing God is good when bad things happen?
2. Have you ever felt sad or hurt and wondered where God was?
3. Why do you think God lets hard things happen sometimes instead of fixing everything right away?
4. Have you ever seen something good come from something really difficult or painful?
5. What does it tell you about God's heart that He came into our world to be with us instead of staying far away?