

HOW CAN A GOOD GOD ALLOW EVIL?

EPISODE 2: DID GOD CREATE EVIL?

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 episode, we reflected on *The God Problem*—how a good God can exist in a world full of suffering and evil.

- Who did you discuss it with, or how did you reflect personally on what you learned?
- Did you notice any new ways God has met you in times of pain or doubt?
- How did that reflection shape your faith or compassion toward others who question God's goodness?

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: “*Did God Create Evil?*” Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

 **WATCH: How Can a Good God Allow Evil?: Did God Create Evil?**

Episode Summary

In this episode, Dr. Bob unpacks the second part of the God problem, the accusation that if God created everything, He must have created evil too. Jesus' response is simple but profound: God didn't create evil; He created love. And real love always involves choice. Evil became possible because God gave His creatures freedom, the ability to choose love or to reject it. That freedom is what makes love genuine, but it also opens the door to pain, rebellion, and suffering. From Lucifer's fall to Adam and Eve's choice in the Garden, Scripture shows that evil entered the world not because God made it, but because His creation misused the freedom He gave them. God's love is “high-risk” love, it allows rejection, yet it never stops pursuing redemption. Jesus proves this love by entering a broken world to defeat evil and invite us back to the heart of God.

Love that takes no risk is not love at all.

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. What does the idea of “high-risk love” — God choosing to love even when it might break His heart — reveal about His relationship with humanity?
2. Can you think of a time when someone's choice — maybe your own — brought both beauty and heartbreak? How did God meet you at that moment?
3. How does understanding free will help you talk with someone younger who wonders why God lets bad things happen?
4. When you think about Jesus' miracles, forgiveness, and cross, what moments most clearly show that God is both powerful and good?
5. What helps you stay confident that God's love and power are still true, even when evil feels close or questions feel unanswerable?

WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

“Deuteronomy 30:19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.”

God’s love gives us freedom to choose, but our choices always have consequences—both good and bad.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

“James 1:13–17 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone...Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” God is not the author of evil.

He is the source of all that is good and trustworthy.

“Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.” Evil came into the world through human choice, but

God’s plan of redemption began immediately through Jesus.



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.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Genesis 3:1-19

Isaiah 14:12-15

Ezekiel 28:12-19

Joshua 24:15

THIS EPISODE’S ASSIGNMENT

This week, take time to thank God for the gift of free will and reflect on how you use that freedom to love Him and others. Journal or pray through one area of your life where you need to choose God’s way over your own.

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom to use your freedom well and courage to trust God’s plan, even when it feels risky.

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 God for His gift of freedom and asking Him to help you reflect His love—a love that chooses, risks, forgives, and never stops pursuing what is good.

