



If God is Good, Why So Much Evil?

August 16, 2026

Read & Reflect

READ: Romans 8:28, Genesis 50:15–21, 1 Corinthians 15:20–26, 1 Peter 3:18

Scripture doesn't tell us that everything that happens is good. It tells us that **God works in all things for good**. In a world marked by human freedom, sin, spiritual evil, suffering, and death, our hope rests in an all-wise God who can redeem what is broken and who ultimately defeated evil through Jesus.

Understand the Moment

"If God is good, why is the world so bad?"

Scripture doesn't minimize that question. Job experienced devastating loss and demanded answers from God, only to discover that God's perspective was far greater than his own.

The Bible also reminds us that human free will, sin, and spiritual evil bring real suffering into our world. Yet evil never gets the final word. Joseph's brothers intended evil against him, but God worked through it for good.

We see this most clearly in Jesus. Through the cross, God entered our suffering and transformed an instrument of death into the place of Christ's victory.

God is not distant from our suffering. He entered it—and He is overcoming it.

Process Together or Alone

- When have you found yourself asking God, "Why?"
- How does free will help you understand some of the evil and suffering in our world?
- What's the difference between saying "everything happens for a reason" and believing God can work through everything for good?
- How does Jesus' suffering affect the way you view your own pain?
- Where do you need to trust God's wisdom even though you don't understand His perspective?

Follow Jesus This Week

Listen

- What might God be saying to you in the middle of your unanswered questions?
- Where is He inviting you to trust His character even when you don't understand your circumstances?

Obey

- What painful situation do you need to surrender to God's wisdom?
- How can you respond faithfully even before you understand what God may be doing?

Share

- Who needs to know they're allowed to bring their difficult questions honestly to God?
- What part of your own story could help someone see God's faithfulness in suffering?

Care

- Who is experiencing suffering right now and needs your presence?
- How can you listen, pray, or provide practical help without trying to give them an easy answer?



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Live It Out

Think of one situation in your life that you wish God would explain. Write it down, and beneath it write **Romans 8:28**:

"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him."

Notice what the verse doesn't say: **all things are good**. Instead, it gives us something better to hold onto: **God is working**.

Bring that situation to Him each day this week. You don't have to pretend it doesn't hurt or that you understand it. Ask for the faith to trust that God's wisdom reaches beyond what you can currently see.

Remember: **Evil may be part of our present reality, but because of Jesus, it will never have the final word.**

Pray

- *Tell God honestly where you're hurting, angry, confused, or struggling to understand.*
- *Ask for faith to trust God's wisdom when you cannot see what He is doing.*
- *Pray for someone currently experiencing grief, illness, injustice, or suffering.*

"There are things in this world—and in my own life—that I simply don't understand. Give me the freedom to bring my questions, anger, and pain honestly to You. When I cannot understand Your ways, help me trust Your character. Thank You that Jesus entered our suffering and that the cross proves evil and death will not have the final word. Work through even the broken places of my story, and use me to bring Your presence, compassion, and hope to others who are hurting. Amen."

Group Leader Optional Questions

Opening Question:

When you're hurting, what is more helpful to you: someone explaining why it happened or someone simply being present with you?

Closing Reflection:

What painful or unanswered situation do you need to entrust to God's wisdom this week, even if you never receive a complete explanation?