



Good

Week 1 - God Is Good

Discussion Guide

“Is God really good?” “If God is good, then why is there so much pain?” These are just a couple of questions that are asked concerning the nature of God’s character. It is assumed that *if* God is good, there would be nothing evil or bad in the world. But is that really true? Does God really make bad things happen? Does He really have evil intent in certain situations? No. God *is* good! He *does* love us. But He allows us to choose. In this world, there is evil – and evil has consequences. If we choose God, He will ultimately use even those dark moments for good.

Jump Start

1. How do you respond (or where do you turn) when bad things happen?
2. *We can trust that God loves us.* Read [Romans 8:35-39](#). In these verses, Paul gives many examples of circumstances that cannot separate us from Jesus’ love, despite how painful or extreme they are. Have you ever felt separated from God’s love? How can the truth in these verse encourage you?
3. *We can trust in God’s goodness.* Read [Psalm 34:8 and Nahum 1:7](#). What does it mean to take refuge in God? Why would we need to “take refuge” in Him?
4. *Remember God’s promises.* Read [Psalm 145:13 and Romans 8:28](#). The Bible gives us example after example of God fulfilling His promises (See Joshua 21:45; 1 Kings 8:56). He never breaks a promise. How can the message of Romans 8:28 help us when we are going through a difficult season? **Also read** [Genesis 50:20](#). God has promised that He is working everything (even the bad things!) together for our good in Romans 8:28. How is this also illustrated in Genesis 50:20?
5. Final Thought: God is the perfect Father, and His relationship with us is an analogy of a perfect parent/child relationship. Like a parent with a child, He sees what we cannot see. He has our best interest at the forefront of His mind, even when it doesn’t seem that way. Sometimes, the temporary pains of this world are sharpening us for what lies ahead. He loves us too much to allow us to remain in sin, so He corrects us and helps us mature in our faith.

Deeper

6. The existence of suffering challenges our faith. How can a good God choose not to eliminate the pain and suffering of this world? We know that God desires good for us (Romans 8:28). In His goodness, He gave us freedom. Freedom to choose whether or not to love Him; freedom to do good or harm, and freedom to make all sorts of choices in our everyday lives, both significant and insignificant. God is not the author of suffering, nor has He promised us a life free from suffering. He did, however,

promise that He would be with us through everything this world brings us.

“It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” Deuteronomy 31:8 (ESV)

Read the following passages of scripture. What do they teach you about trusting God in difficult circumstances?

[Romans 5:3-5](#)

[Romans 8:18](#)

[James 1:2-4](#)

[John 16:33](#)

[Revelation 21:4](#)

[1 Peter 4:12-19](#)

[Hebrews 12:5-11](#)

[Isaiah 30:18](#)