

Why God Allows Evil

Open-Book Review

Name: _____ Date: _____

Use ThinkCube 3 to answer the following questions. Review each premise carefully and be prepared to explain the ideas in your own words.

PREMISE 1

God Allows Evil Because He Can Bring Good From It

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1. What does the lesson teach about God's ability to work through evil?
 - A. God approves of every evil act
 - B. God can bring good from evil without making evil good
 - C. God is powerless to change the outcome of evil
 - D. Every evil action is itself good
2. What is the central example of God bringing the greatest good out of human evil?
 - A. The building of the temple
 - B. The fall of Jericho
 - C. The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus
 - D. The tower of Babel
3. What did Joseph tell his brothers about their betrayal in Genesis 50:20?
 - A. Their actions had no consequences
 - B. Their evil intentions prevented God's plan
 - C. God had intended their evil motives
 - D. They meant evil, but God used the outcome for good
4. Which statement best summarizes God's sovereignty in the face of evil?
 - A. Evil cannot ultimately defeat God's redemptive purposes
 - B. God must commit evil to accomplish good
 - C. People are never responsible for wrongdoing
 - D. Every painful event is immediately understandable

Be Prepared to Share

1. How would you use Joseph's story to answer someone who says that evil proves God has lost control?
2. How does the cross of Christ show that God can bring great good out of a terribly evil act?

PREMISE 2

God Can Allow Evil With A Purpose We Cannot See

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1. What assumption does the lesson challenge when people see suffering without an obvious purpose?
 - A. That suffering is always pleasant
 - B. That a reason cannot exist unless we can see it
 - C. That human understanding has limits
 - D. That God knows more than we do
2. What everyday illustration helps explain why a painful experience may have a purpose?
 - A. A child receiving a needed medical injection
 - B. A person choosing a favorite meal
 - C. A driver stopping for gasoline
 - D. A student choosing a hobby
3. What does Isaiah 55:8–9 emphasize?
 - A. Human beings understand all of God's plans
 - B. God never allows difficult circumstances
 - C. God's thoughts and ways are higher than ours
 - D. Every hardship is punishment
4. What conclusion does the lesson draw from the limits of human knowledge?
 - A. God must explain every reason immediately
 - B. Hidden purposes are impossible
 - C. We should never ask difficult questions
 - D. God may have good reasons we cannot presently understand

Be Prepared to Share

1. Someone says, "I cannot see any reason God would allow this suffering." How would you respond?
2. How does the illustration of a child and a doctor help explain the difference between our perspective and God's?

PREMISE 3

Without Evil We Would Not Know God's Justice And Mercy

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1. According to the lesson, which attributes of God become especially evident in His response to sin?
 - A. Justice and mercy
 - B. Confusion and indifference
 - C. Weakness and uncertainty
 - D. Fear and jealousy
2. What does God's justice assure us about wrongdoing?
 - A. Evil is never serious
 - B. Evil will not go unanswered
 - C. Everyone is innocent
 - D. Judgment is unnecessary
3. What does God's mercy offer to people who have sinned?
 - A. Permission to continue doing evil
 - B. A denial that sin exists
 - C. Forgiveness and the possibility of restoration
 - D. Freedom from all moral responsibility
4. How does the cross of Christ reveal God's character, according to the lesson?
 - A. It shows that justice and mercy cannot coexist
 - B. It proves that sin has no consequences
 - C. It shows that God ignores human suffering
 - D. It displays God's justice and mercy together

Be Prepared to Share

1. How would you explain the difference between God's justice and His mercy to someone unfamiliar with Christianity?
2. Why does the reality of sin help us appreciate the significance of God's forgiveness and redemption?