

## **life groups' sermon guide**

### **why does God permit evil**



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Those are some very interesting answers. Two of the Christian responders wanted to know what constituted evil. Was it the murderer and rapist or was it someone getting sick and dying. Perhaps a child that dies from an accident.

Q) So let's start our conversation here: What constitutes evil in your mind, to you, what is evil?

Q) Who are the people that do these evil deeds?

Q) Are there different kinds of evil, such as moral evil vs. say natural evil, or whatever one might call natural disasters like the floods or tornados that happen?

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Q) What does God say about evil, or levels of evil?

Q) Are all of us guilty of Evil?

Let's look at a few verses: **1 John 1:8, Romans 3:23, Ecclesiastes 7:20**

Q) According to these verses what does this tell us about ourselves?

Q) Is there a difference between "falling short" and evil?

Q) If we ask why is there evil, to we have to also ask why is there mercy?

### **Application:**

Q) If we have established who is evil, and what is evil, how do we talk to non believers about evil? How do we explain it to them?

Q) If free will is a good answer does that satisfy the heart of a suffering person?

Q) How do we as Christians avoid talking for hours about this subject from an intellectual position when what is needed is help making the pain go away?

Q) How do we talk the conversation of evil, and show the world God's love?

In other words, like everything in life, how do we reach the fallen world when it comes to the subject of evil?

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### **why does God permit evil**



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Those are some very interesting answers. Two of the Christian responders wanted to know what constituted evil. Was it the murderer and rapist or was it someone getting sick and dying. Perhaps a child that dies from an accident.

Q) So let's start our conversation here: What constitutes evil in your mind, to you, what is evil?

Q) Who are the people that do these evil deeds?

Q) Are there different kinds of evil, such as moral evil vs. say natural evil, or whatever one might call natural disasters like the floods or tornados that happen?

Q) What about Levels of evil? Is murder an evil higher than say theft?

Q) What does God say about evil, or levels of evil?

Q) Are all of us guilty of Evil?

Let's look at a few verses: **1 John 1:8, Romans 3:23, Ecclesiastes 7:20**

Q) According to these verses what does this tell us about ourselves?

Q) Is there a difference between "falling short" and evil?

Q) If we ask why is there evil, to we have to also ask why is there mercy?

### **Application:**

Q) If we have established who is evil, and what is evil, how do we talk to non believers about evil? How do we explain it to them?

Q) If free will is a good answer does that satisfy the heart of a suffering person?

Q) How do we as Christians avoid talking for hours about this subject from an intellectual position when what is needed is help making the pain go away?

Q) How do we talk the conversation of evil, and show the world God's love?

In other words, like everything in life, how do we reach the fallen world when it comes to the subject of evil?

Any personal experiences anyone would like to share?



## **life groups' sermon guide**

### **why does God permit evil**



LIFE GROUPS  
doing life together

*This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. - John 3:19*

*Evil can only be known and measured against a standard of good... C.S. Lewis*

What a profound question, one that I suspect is on the minds of most non Christians and probably quite a few Christians as well.

I asked 15 people the question why does God permit evil. Ten of them I knew personally and I knew that they professed some sort of Christian belief. Five of them I didn't know so I don't know their belief system.

These were the answers I received:

The number one response was "Because we have *free will*."

Most Christians and everyone that professes being a Catholic answered free will. In all, six of the ten believers said free will.

One Christian believer said it was Gods natural way of "Thinning out the herd. Only the strong survive. God allows evil to weed out the weak."

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