

ADVOCATES

PARENT GUIDE

LESSON 7.1: EVIL
SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 3

SUMMARY:

If God created everything and evil really exists, then did God create evil? This is a common question for Christians, which has a simple answer: God did not create evil because evil is not a thing. Evil is a corruption of good, the way rust corrupts metal. However, God did make evil possible by creating the world and giving humans free will. Genesis 3 teaches us how evil entered God’s good world.

God gave us the capacity to choose Him or reject Him. You can’t have both free will and coercion—this is a logical contradiction. The concept of evil is a really big conversation with a lot of complexities. But the existence of evil—*real* evil—is not a defeater of Christianity. It is actually evidence for it.

CORE VERSE

Far be it from You to do such a thing – to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from You! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

Genesis 18:25

CORE CONCEPTS

Properly understood, evil implies an objective moral order grounded in a good God.

EVIL:

The corruption of good

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Talk to me about the most interesting thing you learned from this week’s lesson.
- How do you explain the existence of evil in the world?
- How do encounters with or seeing evil in the world affect your faith or relationship with Jesus?
- How is the existence of evil evidence for a good God?
- Describe your next steps based on what you’ve learned. How can I help?