



# genesis

part 1: origins

## Week 5: Evil & Suffering

Everything in the creation story is good which leads to the logical conclusion that God himself is good. But as evidenced in Genesis 3, all it takes to turn the world upside down is for us to question that very truth. When we doubt God's goodness, evil always has a chance.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What was the rule your parents had for you growing up that you disliked the most? Looking back, do you still feel that way or can you see wisdom in it?
2. **Read Gen. 2:15-18; 3:1-3.** How does God's command reveal not only a prohibition but also significant provisions? Why do you think people often tend to fixate on restrictions rather than recognizing God's abundant provision in their lives? Eve omits the word "free" from God's original message to Adam. What is the significance of this? How can an acknowledgement of our freedom help us stay obedient to God's commands?
3. **Read Gen. 3:4-5.** What are Satan's strategies for tempting Eve in the first 5 verses? How do you see these same strategies being used against you and how have you/do you combat them? In what ways do you see God's word being twisted and denied in culture today? How does that lead to more evil and suffering in the world?
4. If the tree was going to cause so much brokenness and chaos, why did God put it in the garden to begin with? What would have been missing in the garden without the tree? How does free will play a role in both the potential for good and the possibility of evil in the world?
5. **Read Gen. 3:6-13.** What all is lost as a result of Adam and Eve's disobedience? How do you see these things playing out in our world today?

6. Have you ever tried to hide from God? Adam's reply back to God tells us that he actually wanted to be found. Why do you think that is? In what ways do you see people behaving today that suggest they are hiding but want to be found? Have you ever cried out to be found?
7. **Read Gen. 3:14-19.** How do these verses explain the moral and natural evil in our world today? How have you personally experienced these two types of evil and how did your relationship with God help you navigate them?
8. **Read Gen. 3:20-24.** What steps does God take to begin his redemptive work? Why does he not want Adam and Eve to have access to the tree of life and what does this tell us about death?
9. Where do you see God's love and grace in this story? If someone were to ask you, "How can a loving God allow evil and suffering in the world," how does Genesis 3 help answer that question?
10. Sin and brokenness will be a part of our world until Jesus comes back, and God has given us community to "bear one another's burdens." Close your time together by sharing a burden or a sin you're struggling with and pray for another.