

Good and Evil

Job 1:1-12

Neither worldly power, social influence, moral authority, nor spiritual rightness protects us from the calamities of a broken world. God's _____ simply does not play by our rules.

Discussion 1. What kinds of things do we often tend to rely upon in order to protect us (and our families) from the brokenness of this world? If a genuine faith walk does not make me safe from the calamities of this world, then what is the benefit of it on this side of Heaven?

My theology falls short if it does not deal with how an all-powerful, all-loving God permits (or even uses) evil to accomplish His _____ in this world. God's sovereignty is bigger and more robust than we can even imagine.

Discussion 2. Think about the names on your Prayer/Care/Share list. How would you explain to them a God who might actually use evil to accomplish His greater purposes in this world? How does having a longer, more eternal focus help us understand this?

A God Who lives outside a timeline (across all of time simultaneously) does not need to run tests to see how they will turn out. He already knows. The tests He permits, therefore, are for our own _____...about ourselves and about others.

Discussion 3. Has God ever used something evil to test you or to teach you something about yourself? Was it difficult at the time to imagine God using it? Is it easier to see now looking back at it?

The point of scripture is not to teach us that evil exists. We already know that by experience. Scripture teaches us that it exists completely _____ a sovereign, all-powerful God.

Discussion 4. Does the idea that all evil in the world exists subject to the permissions and parameters given by God encourage you or discourage you? Why?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?