



**MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE
WEEK 3 – A GOOD GOD AND SUFFERING**

Tension Question:

If God is _____, then why do suffering and evil _____?

Opinions on Resolving the Tension of a Good God Who Allows Suffering and Evil:

Opinion #1:

God created _____, so he is _____ for evil and suffering

Response:

God is responsible for _____ free will, but how we _____ this freedom is our _____

Opinion #2:

Evil and suffering are always _____ for _____

Response:

Evil and suffering are _____ of sin, but they are not always a _____ of sin

Opinion #3:

God does _____

Response:

_____ God doesn't _____ the _____ —evil and suffering _____

Opinion #4:

God is good, but he is _____ to _____ evil and suffering

Response:

God _____ a life free from evil and suffering _____
_____ (John 16:33)

Our Challenge:

There is no _____ in this life that resolves the tension between a good God and the problems of evil and suffering

Our Problem: _____...

- Of the _____ that God can _____
- Of the _____ in light of _____
(Romans 8:18)
- Caused by the _____ of _____
(1 Corinthians 13:12)

Our Hope:

- The _____ of Jesus through which God _____ himself to suffering and evil
- God leverages our _____ as a vehicle for providing _____ to others (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)
- God is _____ to the _____
(Psalm 34:18)
- God has a _____, _____, and _____ to bring about good for his children (Romans 8:28)
- Evil and suffering do not have the _____

ADDITIONAL NOTES

DIGGING DEEPER:

1. What are your biggest struggles related to God's goodness in light of the existence of pain and suffering?
2. How do you tend to respond to the problem of evil and suffering in the world?
3. What has been helpful for you as you have navigated these issues?
4. Why do evil and suffering cause many people—maybe even you—to do doubt the goodness of God?
5. What is the challenge we face in trying to resolve this tension?
6. What is the problem that we face as humans in trying to resolve this tension?
7. How has God responded to evil and suffering in the world?
8. How can this bring hope?
9. Why is an eternal perspective a key to dealing with this tension?
10. How might Romans 8:28 be a comfort in our troubles and not merely a pithy statement?