

Does God Punish Us?

Some people grow up with an unhealthy fear of God. They may believe God is waiting to punish them when they mess up, which can lead them to obey out of fear or even feel angry or distant from Him. Sin can bring natural earthly consequences and separation from God.

God sent Jesus to rescue us from the consequence of sin—eternal separation from Him—because He loves us and wants us to be free. God’s desire is always restoration, not fear.



Read Genesis 2:15-17, 3:6

Adam and Eve lived in the perfect garden of Eden. God told them they could eat of any tree in the garden but one. The serpent convinced Eve to eat of the forbidden tree. Both she and Adam ate, disobeying God.



Read Genesis 3:16-19

Sin is anything we think, do or say that disobeys God. When Adam and Eve sinned they were separated from God. God is perfect and holy. When sin entered His perfectly created world, everything was broken, including His relationship with people.

THE GOD OF HOPE

God had a plan from the beginning to send Jesus to take the punishment for our sin. One day, God will restore everything that is broken and make it new.

DISCUSS: Have you ever heard someone say God was mad at them when something bad happened?

DISCUSS: What do you think about that?

DISCUSS: What do you think God says about that?

SAY: Some people may wonder, “When bad things happen, is God punishing me?” Bad things happen as a consequence of sin entering the world. Sometimes it IS a direct consequence of a wrong thing we have done, but because we live in a sinful and fallen world, none of us are free from trouble and sadness. Other times we don’t know why bad things have happened. One thing we can know for certain is that God loves us always, no matter what. He proved that by sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sin. In John 16:33 Jesus says: *In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*



PRAY

God, we admit that we aren’t like You. You are holy and perfect, and we choose sin and disobedience. Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to rescue us from our sin. Amen.