

Why Do Bad Things Happen?

This topic helps kids wrestle with a hard but important truth—if God is good, why do bad things happen? Some kids may already carry questions or hurts, and that’s okay. As a family, you might gently invite your kid to share if anything has ever felt confusing or hard. You don’t have to have all the answers. Simple reminders like “God loves you and is with you, even in hard times” can go a long way in building trust and faith.



Read Genesis 37:2-8, 23-27

Joseph was his father’s favorite son out of twelve brothers. His brothers hated him. One day, they schemed to throw him into a pit and tell their father he was dead. They sold Joseph to a caravan of traders, and he was taken to Egypt.



Read Genesis 41:41-43

Joseph encountered more terrible situations, but God was using every single event for good. Eventually, God would use Joseph’s circumstances to place him in a position of power in Egypt, where he would save many lives.

ROMANS 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who[a] have been called according to his purpose.

DISCUSS: Have you ever heard anyone say that if God is real, He wouldn’t let bad things happen?

DISCUSS: Why might someone feel that way? How would you answer?

DISCUSS: What do you think God says about that?

SAY: It can be very hard to understand how a good God who loves us and is in control of everything would let bad things happen. First, we know that we live in a world broken by sin. God’s design for the world did not include the terrible things that we experience today. But just like with Joseph, He uses hard times in our lives to fulfill His greater plan. He can use pain to bring us closer to Him and make us more like Him. Bad things happen to everyone, but that doesn’t mean God isn’t real. It just means that our world is broken. God is with us during the hard times, and He uses every situation for good. God says in Isaiah 41:10: Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.



PRAY

God, we trust You no matter what happens, good or bad. You have a plan and we choose this week to believe You are completely faithful. Amen.