

# QUESTIONS YOU HAVE

BUT ARE AFRAID TO ASK

Questions You Have (But Are Afraid to Ask)  
How Can a Good God Allow Suffering?  
Genesis 50:20

We all have questions. Whether you consider yourself a Christian or not, you have questions about faith, science, culture, and ultimately your own life. We are discussing these questions at home, at work, with friends, and online. Why shouldn't we discuss these questions with our church family? The Scriptures, because of the Holy Spirit, are living and active, able to speak to questions asked 2,000 years later. So, can a Christian lose their salvation?

God allows suffering because he loves us; God defeats evil because he loves us.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

## Genesis 50:20

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

- Have you ever experienced evil or suffering, and if so, how did it affect your faith?
- Quickly overview Joseph's story in Genesis 37–50. What happened to Joseph?
- In order to address how a good God can allow suffering, we have to understand evil. How would you define evil?
- Who is responsible for evil? What does Joseph say is the answer in Genesis 50:20?
- Joseph, however, says that God “meant it for good.” In order to address the problem of evil, we have to understand who God is as well. What are some attributes or characteristics of God that are associated with how God handles evil and suffering?
- How should we understand that God doesn't cause evil, but he can use evil for good?
- In the moment of suffering it is difficult to see, but suffering has a way of shaping us for our good. How has suffering shaped you for good?
- Read Hebrews 2:14–15. How does this passage address how God has handled evil and suffering?
- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus has experienced much of, if not more of, the suffering and evil we have?
- How can we as Christians help alleviate suffering and defeat evil in the present?
- Perhaps the most difficult thing about the problem of evil is coming to grips with the truth that we have to wait for evil and suffering to be defeated once and for all. How do you continue to trust God that he will defeat evil and end suffering in the future while you experience evil and suffering in the present?