



WHY DO SO MANY **BAD THINGS** HAPPEN IN THE WORLD?

Why are there disasters like fires and floods? Why is there fighting and death? Bad things like these were not always here. When God created the world, He made it perfect. Everything was beautiful and good. What happened? Why did things go wrong?

It started when the very first people chose to ignore God. Instead of obeying God, they did what they wanted to do. Disobeying God is called sin. When sin came into the world, it ruined God's perfect Creation. Bad things started happening in nature—things like hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes. Pain and death came into the world because of sin.

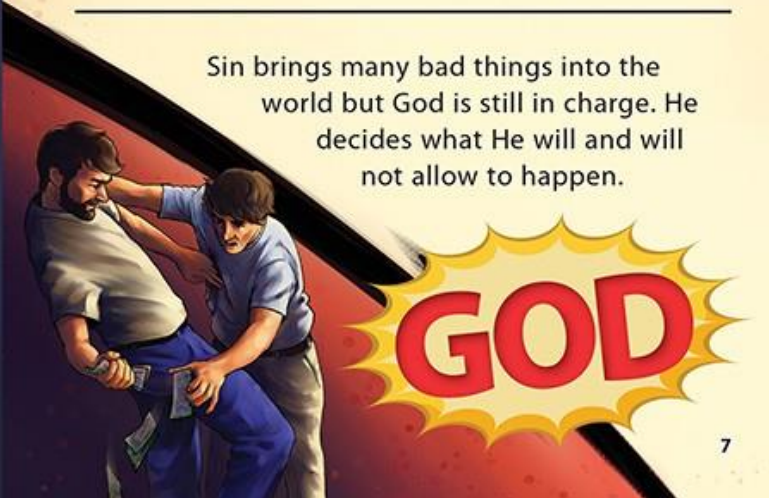
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Even worse, everyone since then has been born sinful. Because of sin, people do things that hurt others, like saying mean things to people, hating, fighting, killing and stealing.

You are not to blame in any way for terrible storms or earthquakes. A child is not to blame if his parents divorce. It is not his fault.

But you and I do things that displease God and our sin keeps us apart from God who is perfect. There is pain and death because of sin. The Bible says sin came into the world and brought death with it (Romans 5:12).

What things can you think of that are sin?



Sin brings many bad things into the world but God is still in charge. He decides what He will and will not allow to happen.

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DO YOU WONDER WHY?

HOW CAN I GET THROUGH THIS TERRIBLE TIME?

No matter what happens, God can help you get through it. If you become His child, He will take care of you as part of His family. God is not like earthly fathers—He is perfect. He wants to be your loving Heavenly Father and comfort you during this difficult time.

God lives in Heaven, His perfect home. His only Son Jesus lives there too. Because God is holy He can't ignore sin in the world. Sin has to be punished. The Bible tells us that the punishment for sin is death (Romans 6:23). Death means you are separated from God forever in a terrible place. God's plan to take care of the sin problem was to send His Son to take the punishment you and I deserve.

God sent His Son Jesus to Earth as a baby. Because He is the Son of God, Jesus is the only one who never sinned. As He grew up, Jesus never did anything wrong. Then the day came for Jesus to take the punishment for your sin. God understands the terrible things you're going through because He has also suffered. He watched as men took His Son and nailed Him to a cross. Jesus suffered too. He bled and died a horrible death. God knew this was the only way your sin could be forgiven.



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