

An illustration of three children looking out a window with a decorative lattice pattern. The boy on the left is looking through a magnifying glass. The girl in the middle is wearing glasses and pointing. The boy on the right is gesturing with his hand. Outside the window is a cityscape with domes and minarets, suggesting a Middle Eastern or Islamic setting. A bright light source is visible in the sky.

explore



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Student

book
8

in the Explore Kid's
Discipleship Series

Represent the Evidence for God

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Student Book 8 in the Explore Kid's Discipleship Series

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explore Represent the Evidence for God

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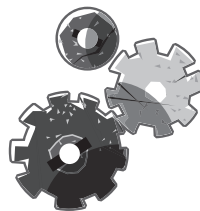


Bad Things

Bad things happen in this world as the result of sin.

Engage

Sometimes it is hard to understand why there are so many bad things that happen in this world. It is especially hard to understand when bad things happen to us. It is important to know that God's original plan was for only good things to happen. Evil entered the world because humans rebelled against God.



Check It Out

Why do bad things happen to good people?

Read Genesis 1:31.

I can know it's true:

1. God made a perfect world. There was no pain, no death, no natural disasters, and no sin. God created Adam and Eve to take care of the earth and all the animals and to have a relationship with Him. He commanded them not to eat from a tree in the middle of the garden. But Adam and Eve disobeyed God and brought sin into this world. Read about the perfect world God created in **Genesis 1–2** and **Job 38:4–14**.
2. The world became imperfect because of sin. From that point on, we have seen hostility, hate, deceit, jealousy, fear, pain, and corruption. All of creation experienced the effects of sin. Read about sin and it's corruption in **Genesis 3:7, 14–24; 6:11–13; and Romans 8:22**.
3. Bad things happen to everyone because of sin. We can face bad times as a result of our own sin, as a

result of someone else's sin, or as a result of the earth being cursed. For instance, if you tell a lie, you might be grounded for a week. Being grounded is a result of your own sin. But what about the person whose mom dies from cancer or the classmate who lost her whole house in a fire? Did these bad things happen because someone in that family sinned? No, those things happened because the earth was cursed after Adam and Eve sinned. Everyone now has to face death and natural disasters on earth. In all these scenarios, sin is the reason the bad things happened, whether the people who were affected were "good" or not. Read about bad things happening as a result of sin in **Genesis 4:8–13; 1 Corinthians 15:56; and John 16:33**.



Question

Read **1 Corinthians 15:21–22**.

Do you think you would have disobeyed God in the garden? Why or why not?

What are some bad things that can happen as a result of your own sin?

What are some bad things that can happen as a result of someone else's sin?

What can you do to help ease the pain of sin in other people's lives?

Can you sum up the answer to the question: Why do bad things happen to good people?

Here is a simple acronym to remember the answer.

S—Sin

I—Ignores

N—Nobody

Challenge

The challenge this week is to observe the results of sin. List at least five effects of sin you notice this week. After you have created your list, pray that God will give you the wisdom to avoid sin and help others when they are hurt by sin.

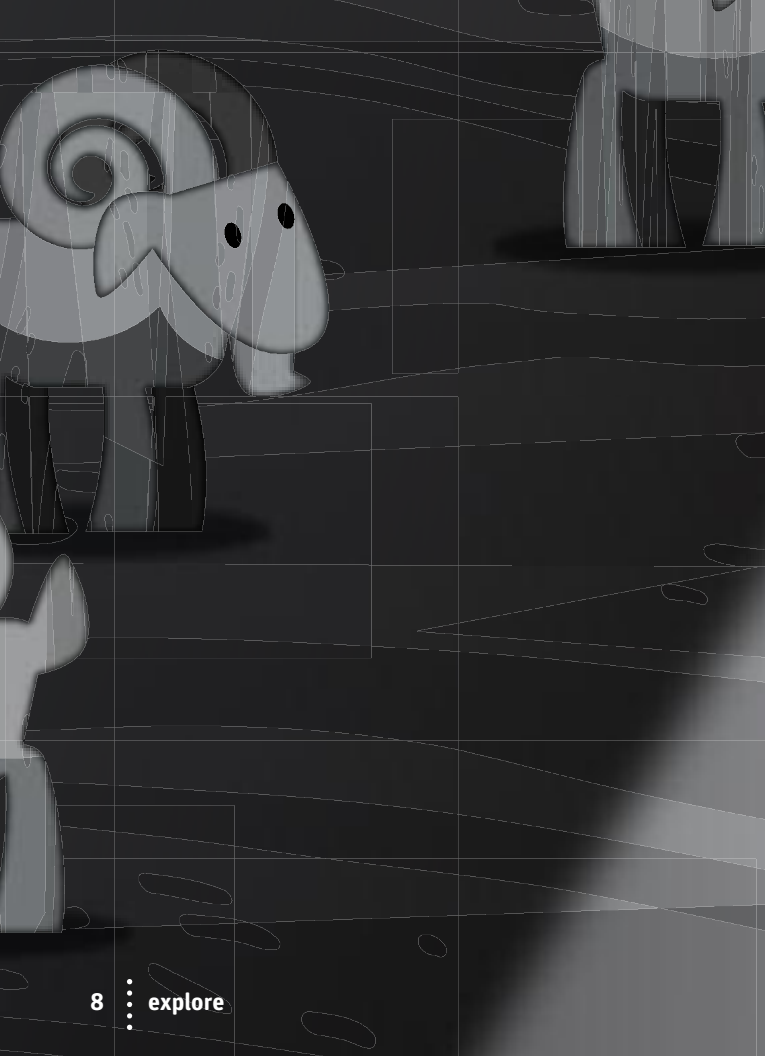


- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

explore

Romans 8:22 says, “For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.”

Read this passage every day this week. Work on memorizing this verse as well as remembering the SIN acronym. This will help you be ready when someone asks you why bad things happen to good people.



Hell

Hell is the punishment for sin and rejecting Jesus.

Engage

People sometimes find it hard to understand why there has to be judgment and punishment in hell. The short answer is because of sin. The existence of hell actually shows that God is holy, just, and loving.



Check It Out

Why does there have to be judgment and punishment for sin?

Read Romans 6:23.

I can know it's true:

1. God is holy. To be holy means to be set apart or separate from evil. God has never done anything wrong or evil, and He never will. He is totally perfect. Because He is set apart from sin, God cannot allow sinful people to be in His presence in heaven. Our sins keep us from entering into the eternal presence of our Holy God. Read about the holiness of God in **1 John 1:5; Habakkuk 1:13; Psalm 145:17; 1 Samuel 2:2; and Revelation 21:27.**
2. God is just. When we do something wrong, we deserve to be punished. For example, if someone keeps kicking you at school, she deserves to get in trouble. Or if your brother lies about you, he deserves to be punished. When we sin and disobey, we deserve to be punished. God always judges sin; it would be wrong of Him not to. That is what being just is all about. The Bible says that the punishment for sin is death and separation from God in hell. It is

our own sins that make hell necessary. Read about the punishment for sin in **Romans 6:23; Matthew 25:46; 1 John 1:8, 10; Revelation 20:12, 15; and Psalm 92:7.**

3. God is love. God did not create hell for us; He made it for Satan and his demons. God does not want anyone to be separated from Him. In fact, God loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross and take the punishment for our sins. If we believe in Jesus, God will wipe away our sins, making it possible to be in His presence forever. Because of God's love and sacrifice, we do not have to pay the penalty for our sins! Read about God's love in **2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 1:9; John 3:16; Romans 2:3–5; and 10:9–10.**



Question

What does 2 Peter 3:9 tell us about God?

Read **Matthew 25:41**.

Who does Jesus tell us hell was originally prepared for?

How does it make you feel knowing that God did not create hell for mankind but for Satan and his demons?

Read **Isaiah 6:3**.

What does it mean for God to be holy?

Why would God give up His only Son for us?

If you were God, would you have given up your son to take the punishment for everyone's sins? Why or why not?

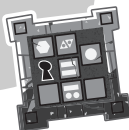
Why do you think everyone does not choose to believe in Jesus and go to heaven?

What stops you from telling people about Jesus so they have the chance to go heaven?

Write a poem to answer the question: Why is hell necessary?

Challenge

The challenge this week is to pray for the person you chose during the prayer time. Write down his or her name in the space provided. Pray for that person every night before you go to bed and in the morning when you wake up.



explore

Second Peter 3:9 says, “The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.”

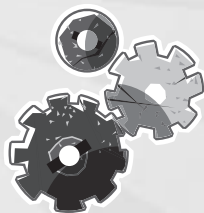
Read this verse every night this week. Remember that God wants everyone to repent and no one to be separated from Him.

The Way

Jesus is the only way to God.

Engage

Sometimes it might feel harsh to come right out and say that non-Christian religions are false. But the Bible makes it clear that Jesus is the only way. So the most loving thing to do is to persuade others that their religion is leading them on the wrong pathway.



Check It Out

Aren't all religions the same?

Read John 14:6.

I can know it's true:

1. All religions cannot be right. The different religions may look somewhat similar, but they are very different. Hindus believe in many gods and reincarnation (being reborn in a different body). Muslims believe you have to earn salvation by strictly following the laws in the Quran (their sacred writings). Buddhists don't really believe in any god, but finding a state of mind called Nirvana (no cares, pain, or reality). Atheists believe there is no God. We can see that each of these religions conflicts with the others and ends in a different place. For example, a person cannot believe in many gods and no god at the same time. Since all religions cannot be right, there can be only one that is right. Read about different false religions in **Judges 10:6; 1 Samuel 12:21; 1 Kings 18:18–39; Jeremiah 10:15–16; Matthew 24:24; and Acts 17:22–23.**
2. Jesus claims He is the right way. In **1 Kings 8:60**, God says He is the only God. Every other god or idol is false and should not be served. Not only does the

Bible say there is only one true God, Jesus says He is the *only* path to the true God. Jesus leaves no room for other religions to be right. Read about the one true God and Jesus as the only way in **Psalm 81:9; John 10:9; 14:6; and Acts 4:12.**

3. Jesus invites everyone to believe in Him. Some people say it is narrow-minded to believe Jesus is the only way, but God invites everyone, regardless of their skin color, gender, or past beliefs. He does not require us to be good before we believe in Him or perform certain rituals. He does not want us to earn, pay, or fight our way to heaven. He simply wants us to accept His Son who died on the cross for our sins. Read about believing in Jesus in **Romans 3:25; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8–9; and Matthew 10:32–33.**



Question

What are some different beliefs you encounter at school that do not line up with Jesus' teachings?

Why do you think some people believe that all religions are the same?

In the Old Testament, there were some popular false gods of that time. Read **2 Kings 21:2–3**.

What are some popular false teachings of our time?

What does Matthew 7:13–14 teach us about who will believe in Jesus?

How can we avoid being fooled like those in Galatians 1:6–7?

How would you answer the question: Aren't all religions the same?

Challenge

This week the challenge is to read through three passages in the book of John. Highlight anything that stands out to you. Write down any questions you have about these passages in the space below.



John 3:1–21

John 8:12–20

John 11:1–42

explore

Romans 3:22 says, “We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.”

Ask your parent’s permission to write this verse on your bathroom mirror with dry erase markers (they come off with window cleaner). Read this verse every time you look in the mirror and try to have it memorized by next week.

Resurrection

Jesus died, was buried, and came back to life.

Engage

The resurrection was the most significant event in all of human history. It showed that Jesus really was who He claimed to be, and it was the beginning of God's new creation. If Jesus was not raised from the dead, then we could not follow and serve Him today.



Check It Out

Did Jesus really die and come back to life?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:16–19.

I can know it's true:

1. The evidence in the Bible shows that Jesus really did die on the cross. Jesus was severely beaten. He was flogged with a lead-tipped whip and had a crown of thorns stuck on His head. He lost so much blood carrying the cross that He could not finish taking it to the place where He would be hung on it. He was nailed to the cross through His hands and feet. After the soldiers decided He was dead, they drove a spear through His side. The Bible says water and blood came out when He was stabbed. Read about Jesus dying in **Matthew 27:26–54; John 19:28–36;** and **Mark 15:15–39.**

2. Jesus' body was missing from the tomb. After Jesus died, He was buried in a tomb with a large, heavy stone rolled in front of the entrance. The tomb had guards in front of it to make sure no one could steal Jesus' body. Some women and a few of Jesus' disciples came to the tomb and found the heavy

stone rolled away from the entrance. They were surprised to see that the tomb was empty! The guards also saw this and went to tell the priests what had happened. Today we might hear people say that this never happened. If the disciples were making up the whole story, the Jews and Romans could have easily gone back to the tomb and said, "Look, Jesus' body is right here. Stop telling lies!" The only problem was the Jews and Romans could not find Jesus' body either. There is no doubt the tomb was empty! Read about Jesus being buried and the tomb being empty in **John 19:38—20:10; Luke 23:50—24:12; Matthew 27:57–61;** and **28:1–7.**

3. Jesus was—and still is—alive. There were two different accounts circulating of what happened to His body. The Jewish religious leaders said Jesus' body was stolen, and the disciples said He was alive. The disciples were so sure that Jesus was alive that they were willing to die for the truth. In addition to

the disciples seeing Jesus, there were over five hundred other witnesses who saw Jesus after He rose from the dead. Jesus truly came back to life. Read about Jesus' resurrection in **Matthew 28:8–15**; **Luke 24:13–43**; **Romans 8:34**; **Acts 1:3**; and **John 20:11–29**.



Question

Read **Romans 15:14** and **20**.

How important is Jesus' resurrection from the dead?

According to 1 Corinthians 15:3–6, how many people saw Jesus alive after He died?

Read **Matthew 28:12**.

Why do you think the Jewish leaders made up a lie like this?

Why do you think people today try to discredit Jesus' resurrection?

Why do people find it hard to believe in Jesus' resurrection?

Would it be easier for you to believe if you saw Him alive? Why or why not?

Read **1 Thessalonians 4:14**.

What kind of hope does Jesus' resurrection give us?

How would you answer today's question: Did Jesus really die and come back to life?

Challenge

The challenge this week is to read the story of Jesus' death and resurrection from two out of the four gospels. Choose which two passages you would like to read. Underline or highlight the parts that stand out to you as you read.

Jesus' death and resurrection is found in:

- **Matthew 27:11—28:15**
- **Mark 14:53—16:8**
- **Luke 23:1—24:12**
- **John 18:28—20:18**



explore

First Corinthians 15:3–4 says, “Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.”

Memorize this passage throughout the coming week. As you memorize, give Jesus praise for dying for your sins and coming back to life.

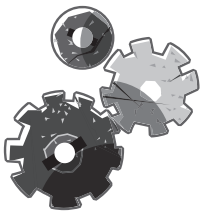


The Truth

The Bible is true.

Engage

Some people do not believe the Bible is true. They view it as a collection of nice stories or fairy tales that did not really happen. But you can be confident that the Bible is God's true word.



Check It Out

Is the Bible true?

Read 2 Timothy 3:16–17.

I can know it's true:

1. The Bible is God's word. Even though there were over forty men who recorded the events in Scripture, God inspired each man and told him exactly what to write. Since the words in the Bible came directly from God—who does not lie—we can trust that the Bible is entirely true. Still, some people choose to believe only parts of the Bible. They claim some parts are not relevant, are outdated, or simply could not have happened. Although it may be hard for our imperfect minds to understand some of the passages in the Bible, we cannot pick and choose what parts we want to believe. The Bible is either 100 percent true or not true at all. Read about the truth of the Bible in **Psalm 19:7–9; Luke 1:1–4; and 1 John 1:1–4.**

2. The fulfillment of prophecy proves the Bible is true. In the Old Testament, which took place hundreds of years before Jesus came to earth, God chose several men to be His prophets. God gave these men the

ability to predict several details about the coming of Jesus. For example, the prophet Micah wrote seven hundred years before Jesus was born that He would be born in Bethlehem. The prophets even predicted Jesus' betrayal and death hundreds of years before they actually happened. And in the New Testament, we can see that every single prediction about Jesus came true! These prophecies—all from different men—could not have come true unless they were revealed by the true God, the One who knows the future. Read about these prophecies and how they came true in **Psalm 41:9 and John 13:18; Isaiah 53:7 and Mark 15:3–5; and Isaiah 50:6 and Matthew 27:29–30.**

3. Archaeology (the study of past human life and remains) proves the Bible is true. Archaeologists have found numerous artifacts that match the events we read about in the Bible. For example, a tablet called the Tel Dan Inscription was found in northern Israel in

1993. This tablet describes the exact event mentioned in 2 Chronicles. Archaeologists have also found a stone tablet proving Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judea during Jesus' death. Not one artifact that has been found disproves the Bible. In fact, the extreme opposite is true; there are thousands of artifacts that prove the Bible is reliable! To read about the event mentioned on the Tel Dan Inscription, read **2 Chronicles 22:1–9**. To read about Pontius Pilate, see **Mark 15:1–15**.

What does this passage teach us about the word of God?

List everything 2 Timothy 3:15–17 teaches us about the Bible.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Question

What does 2 Peter 1:20–21 tell us about the prophecies in Scripture?

What do you picture when you read Hebrews 4:12?

6.

Here is a fun song that will help us remember that the Bible is absolute truth and not a book of fairy tales:

7.

The B-I-B-L-E
Is proven true you see
Through archaeology and prophecy
The B-I-B-L-E

Why do you think some people do not trust what is in the Bible?

The B-I-B-L-E
Is God inspired you see
Which makes it true for you and me
The B-I-B-L-E

Why is it important for us to believe the entire Bible is true and not just certain parts?

How would you answer the question: Is the Bible true?

Challenge

The challenge this week is to read four different Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. After each prophecy, research where Jesus fulfilled this prophecy in the New Testament. Record your findings for each passage below.



1. **Isaiah 9:6–7**—Fulfillment: **Luke 1:32**
2. **Micah 5:2**—Fulfillment: **Luke 2:4–7**
3. **Jeremiah 31:15**—Fulfillment: **Matthew 2:16–18**
4. **Zechariah 9:9**—Fulfillment: **Mark 11:7–11**

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Second Timothy 3:16 says, “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.”

This is a wonderful verse to memorize and remind us that God’s Word is true and inspired by Him. Read this passage several times this week. Pray that God will give you the desire to read and study His Word this week.

Creation

Everything that exists was made by God.

Engage

For nearly as long as humans have been around, we have told one another stories about where we came from and how the earth was created. But the Bible tells the true story of how God created the earth and everything in it. He gave us a life and a home that is perfectly suited for us.



Check It Out

What does the Bible say about creation?

Read Psalm 24:1.

I can know it's true:

1. God created everything that exists or ever has existed. The first verse in the Bible says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). The earth is where we live, and the heavens include the sky and outer space. The Bible teaches that God created them all. Some religions teach that there is no God and that the heavens and the earth came into existence without any "outside help." They teach that life began with single-cell organisms and then gradually evolved into plants, animals, and humans. But the Bible says that God carefully and lovingly created the universe and each species of life. Read about God creating the earth in **Genesis 1:1–25**.
2. God created humans, both men and women, and gave us a special honor above the rest of His creation. He created us in His image (Gen. 1:26–27). This means we are like Him in some ways. One of the ways we are like God is that He shares with us

the responsibility of taking care of part of His creation (Gen. 1:28). This is a much different picture from those who teach that humans gradually evolved from other life-forms. The Bible clearly teaches that humans have a special place in God's creation and have been given a special responsibility and purpose in life. Read about the creation of humanity and the job God gave us to do in **Genesis 1:26–28**.

3. God gave humans a perfect place to live and everything we need. Before the first sin, every living thing existed in perfect relationship with the earth and other living things. It was very good (Gen. 1:31). Though some people teach that there have always been predators and death, the Bible teaches that God created everything and everyone to live in perfect harmony with one another and with Him. And one day, God will cause this to happen again. Read what the Bible says about the future of God's creation in **Isaiah 11:6**.



Question

Why do you think it's important to know that God made everything?

Read **Genesis 1:11–12**.

God created the plants with seeds in them so that they would produce more plants and survive from generation to generation. **How does this show God's wisdom and His care and concern for the human race?**

How can Christians express our appreciation to God for providing for us this way?

Read **Genesis 1:27**.

Did God give His image and glory to only part of the human race or to all?

In what ways do you think people show God's glory?

How does Genesis 1:28 and 2:15 show what God's original purpose was for the man and woman?

Read **Genesis 2:8** to see what kind of home God created for the man and woman.

Name everything you can think of that God gave the man and woman to provide for their lives and happiness.

6. God gave humans the earth to do with as we want.

7. God gave humans a special role in His creation.

8. God's image is found in both men and women.

Label each statement "True" or "False".

1. God created the earth. _____

2. God had "outside help" in creating the universe.

3. God didn't care much how everything turned out.

4. The way God formed the world was perfect for humans. _____

5. God gave the man and woman an important job to do. _____

9. Broken relationships have been a part of life since the beginning. _____

10. One day God will make the heavens and earth new again. _____

Challenge

The challenge this week is to imagine what life would be like if we still lived in God's perfect creation. Think about the following questions:



- What would our relationships with God be like?
- What would our relationships with each other be like?
- How would we care for God's creation?
- Would there be any poverty or hunger?
- Would we have any purpose in life or anything to accomplish?

- Would there be conflict or disagreement? Would there be counselors, police, or judges?
- What great things do you think humans could accomplish to give God glory?

explore

Revelation 21:1, 5 says, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. . . . And the one sitting on the throne said, 'Look, I am making everything new!'"

The fact that God made everything in the first place means He can make all things new again. How does this give you confidence that He can be trusted with your life?

Defend the Faith Day

Certificate of Participation

Date: _____

Location: _____

I gave a presentation on this topic: _____

I made the following important statements: _____





explore

Congratulations

**on learning to represent
the evidence for God.**

**Go and experience an
amazing journey of faith!**