



# Why Do Bad Things Happen?

Psalm 76:10

## *Items Needed*

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Pencils/Crayons/Markers
- ✓ Play Doe for each child
- ✓ Various items you purchased at a store
- ✓ 1000 piece puzzle
- ✓ Safety scissors for each child
- ✓ Copies of coloring sheet
- ✓ Copies of take home overview



## Why Do Bad Things Happen?

### Objective of Lesson

The objective of this lesson is to show how all things work together for God's glory and the good of God's children. Nothing is out of God's control. We can take comfort in knowing this.

### Scripture Reference

*Psalm 76:10 - Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.*

### Lesson Instructions

1. I was having a conversation with my girls in the car this week. They asked me a question. This is a question many of us who live in this world, and who know how powerful God is, ask at some time or another. That question is, "Why do bad things happen?" At any given time we can get on the computer or turn on our television and find out what is going on anywhere in the world. When we turned on the news this week, we heard of a great and heart-breaking event that had taken place in the state of Oklahoma. There was a great storm and from that storm formed one of the most powerful tornadoes we have seen in decades. It was over a mile wide and stayed on the ground destroying homes, cars, peoples' businesses and even destroyed a children's elementary school.

It destroyed homes people had lived in all their lives and left them without a place to live. It destroyed businesses that many people made their living from, and left them without a way to provide for themselves and their families. The most heart breaking of all, it killed people of all ages from little tiny babies to the very old. When you look at these things on the news and you hear of such devastating events, you turn to the God of heaven in prayer and ask, "Why Lord? Why did you allow that to happen?" We all know that the God of the Bible is the most powerful being in the entire universe and beyond. There is none other god besides God. If He had the power to stop it, then why didn't He? If He could have kept that from happening, then why didn't He?

2. In order to answer that question let's first remember something. Let's remember who God is and what He does. The actual name, God, can only be given to a being that decides and arranges all things. If a being didn't have THAT kind of power then he COULDN'T be called God. Why? The reason is because that is what it MEANS to be God. It means to be the strongest, smartest, most perfect being in the universe. You and I can't REALLY question God. The only thing you can do is bow to God. The Bible tells us God rules the heavens and the earth and nobody can stop what He does, change how He does it, or even question what He is doing. That means He doesn't have to answer to us in any way. We belong to God. We are His possession. (Jeremiah 18:4, Romans 9:20-21, Job 33:6, Isaiah 44: 24, 1 Cor. 6:20, 1 Cor. 7:23)
3. Let me give you an example. I am going to give you all a piece of clay. I want you to make anything you want from it. Now, what you just made belongs to you. You can do with it what you will. You can destroy it or you can cherish it and love it. Does that thing you've just created have control over you? (Isaiah 29:16) Are you its creator? Does that lump of clay have the right to demand you do anything? If you wanted to put this lump up on a shelf in a place of honor (Put it in the middle of the table) and throw this lump in the

trash, (Walk over and throw the lump in the trash) does that lump have the right to say, "That is not fair! You can't do that!!" No. That is silly. You made it; you can do what you will with your own!

4. Let me give you another example. Here are a few items in front of us. (Point to some items you purchased at a store in the middle of the table). If you go to the store and purchase these items, and you pay for them, who do they belong to? They belong to the one who purchased them - the one who paid for them. Once you pay for them, does that item have the right to demand you do anything? If you wanted to put this item up on a shelf in a place of honor and throw this item in the trash, does that item have the right to say, "That is not fair! You can't do that!" No, that is silly! You bought it! You can do what you will with your own! That is exactly what the Bible teaches us about God. Not only did He make the world, us, and all things in it, our Lord Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, bought the rights to it all by shedding His blood and paying the debt we owe for it! That is what this entire world is to God - all this world is His creation. All of heaven and earth are ruled by God. His power is the only power there is. We are all His creatures and we wouldn't even be here if it were not for God deciding we should exist.
5. Now we are going to stop right here for a minute because it is important you understand what I am going to say next. God is NOT a tirade. He doesn't do things on a whim just to be mean like men and women do. He doesn't get angry for no reason and destroy those in His path just because He feels like it. God is not a horrible and evil being. Men are, but God is not. Actually, if we could see spirit, He would be so beautiful and so wonderful and so good that you would instantly fall in love with Him. He is THAT wonderful. On this earth, the only way we can see beauty is with our physical bodies - our eyes, ears and nose, touch etc.... But God is so beautiful that His beauty goes beyond what we can see with our eyes. How do I know? The Bible tells us so, and God's people are given the ability to see it. All of Christ's people are given new eyes and a new heart, and they are all given the ability to see His

beauty. That is why they fall in love with Him. He is beautiful in ways we can't even see with our physical eyes. His goodness is beautiful. How perfect He is, is beautiful. How He plans and arranges things is beautiful. His wisdom (How smart he is) is beautiful. The Lord's people see all those things about Jesus Christ, the God-Man. God's people are given the ability to see the beauty of His love, His mercy, His faithfulness and His goodness, by looking at what He did for them in the cross. He died for them that they might be set free from the penalty of sin. They see nothing but goodness, holiness and beauty, why? It's because that is all God is!

6. Nothing evil comes from God. Nothing bad comes from God - only goodness and beauty. (Psalm 52:1, Isaiah 6: 1-3, Psalm 27:4) When a vile sinner, chosen of God is shown the Lord's beauty and holiness and goodness, it instantly melts the hardest heart of stone. Remember Christ IS God in human flesh. If our Lord were evil and mean and ugly He wouldn't be God. Only man with a sinful nature is evil and mean and ugly in his heart. Our Lord Jesus Christ, our Lord God, is not sinful and He does not have a sin nature. (1 Peter 2: 22) He is good, just and right. He doesn't get mad and take revenge upon men without a just cause.
7. This brings us to our question. Why do bad things happen? If God is good and can only do good, and if God is the only power there is that is truly in control, then why do bad things happen? In the Bible, it tells us the only answer there is. This whole world and everything in it exists for one reason and one reason only: To save God's people from their sins and bring them to know Christ their savior. Because God has a people and He does not will that one of them should perish in their sins, every single thing that happens only happens for that reason. (Romans 8:28, John 6: 38)
8. That is the only reason He created this world. That is the only reason He allows evil to exist. That is the only reason He made the angels. That is the only reason He sends the rain... And YES that is the ONLY reason bad things happen. It is because He is using IT ALL, from the most vile and wicked

human being, from the most horrible acts of violence and evil, to the best, most selfless acts of goodness and the most gifted preachers on earth - ALL to save His people from their sins and finally bring them home to be with Him. We know it all exists for this one reason because He wrote an entire book about it. (Hold up the Bible)

9. Don't ever be fooled into thinking that God is not in control of things and that something you consider to be bad happened because God couldn't help it. If there was anything that happened that God didn't have control over then he would no longer be God and a power stronger than him would become God... And that, little one, will NEVER happen. The one who makes the decisions and has the power to rule is God. If for one minute you think that YOU have control over something and God doesn't, then you have just made yourself a god and spit in God's face, and God will rightly cast you out into dark eternity for it.
10. The Bible tells us God even uses evil for the good of His people. (Amos 3:6, Psalm 76:10) **Psalm 76:10 Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.** You know what that means? That means God allows evil men do their evil things and then when it no longer serves the good of His people - He puts a stop to it. That means God allows evil things to happen because He uses them to shower good things on His people. The rest of the evil is immediately stopped.
11. I would like to end this lesson with a wonderful demonstration I heard a few years ago. I have never forgotten it because it demonstrates so clearly how God can take all, even evil and bad things, and use them for the good of His people. God is not like men. We try to understand God by trying to make God think and act like a man, but God is not like a man. No, He is much more powerful, wise, and good than man. (Isaiah 55:8-9) Here is why... I hold in my hand a huge 1000 piece puzzle. (Dump the puzzle pieces in the middle of the table) I want you each to take a piece of the puzzle, and the rest of it we are going to put back in the box. (Make sure they cannot see the front of

the box. It is important they cannot see the final image - only their piece). Now I want you each to hold up your piece of the puzzle. From that one piece I want you to tell me what the final picture looks like. Just from that one piece of the puzzle you hold in your hand, can you do it? No! I course not. You can't even figure out where your piece goes until all the pieces are laid out, can you? THAT is exactly what you are doing when you try and take one event and ask, "Why did this happen?" All things - all these pieces of the puzzle (Shake the box) - work together - fit together like a puzzle piece, (When you say this fit two pieces of the puzzle together and show how they join) for good. The end picture is good because God is good and can only do good. We know how it all ends to them that love God. Not one person that is God's is going to be harmed; they are only blessed - to them who are the called according to His purpose. And what is His purpose? What is the reason this universe and everything in it exists? So Christ can do the will of God and save His people from their sins and bring them home to be with Him. It is for the glory of God!

12. The next time you see something that makes you sad and you ask, "Why Lord? Why did that happen?" Remember, God is in control. God can only do good, and it is just another piece of the puzzle and God tells you how it is all going to end in His book! Trust Christ the author of it all! Is it going to end in death and sorrow for God's people? Never. It is being used to bring them home to Him. We need a savior, little one. If you need a savior run in your hearts to the most powerful one who can save you. Run to the king who has the power to do with you what He will. He will save you from your sin if you need a savior. He has already done the work. It is finished! Run to the one who has saved millions and can save you too! How do I know? Because that is the ONLY reason all of this was created - to bring about the salvation of His people and bring them home to be with Christ their Lord! That tornado and all of its destruction is a piece of a huge puzzle. It is a puzzle to us but not to God. He knows where all the pieces go, because He made the puzzle and

laid out every single piece. That war, that death, that birth, that life lived, is just a piece of the puzzle. *Surely **the** wrath of man shall praise **thee**: **the** remainder of wrath **shalt thou** restrain. Amen.*

## Lesson Activities]

- Coloring Sheet
- Demonstration of Puzzle
- Demonstration of Clay



# Take Home Lesson Overview



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### Lesson Overview:

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