

TalkBack

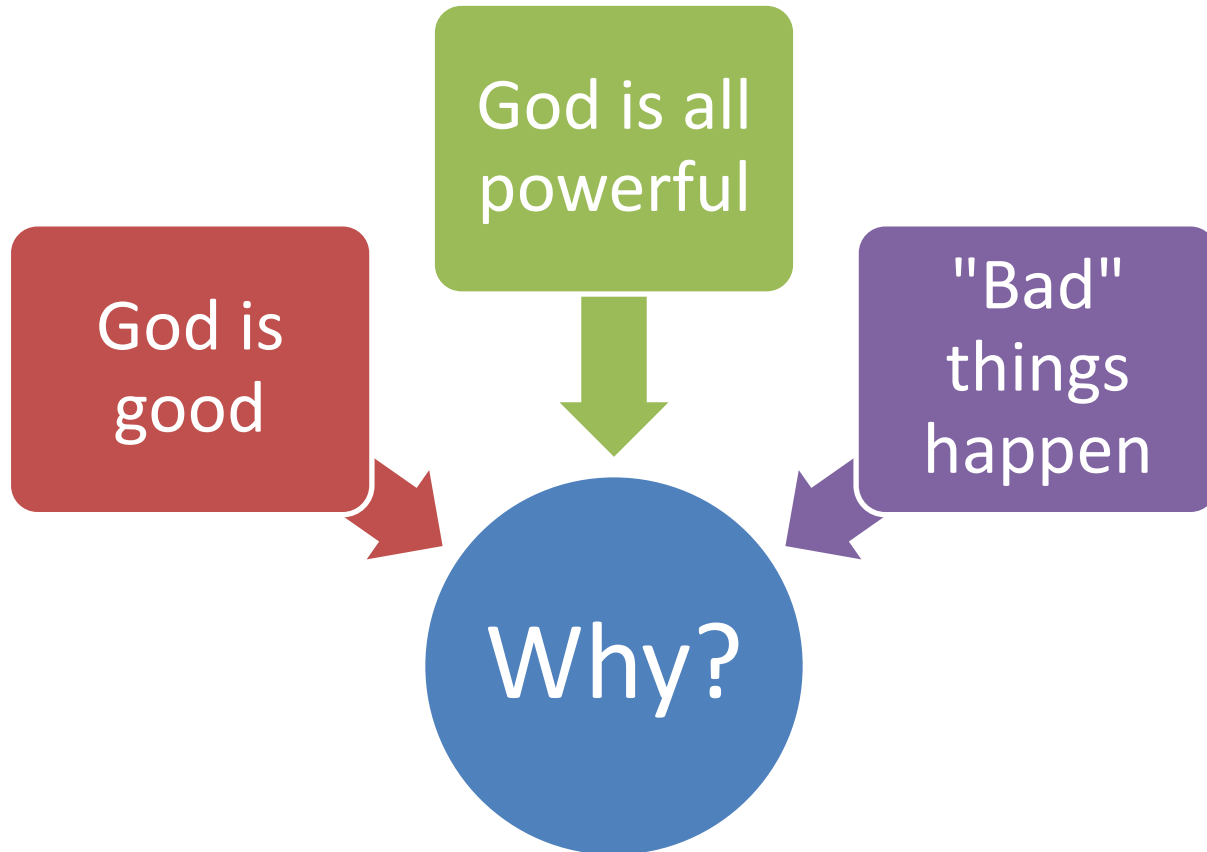
Suffering

Discussion

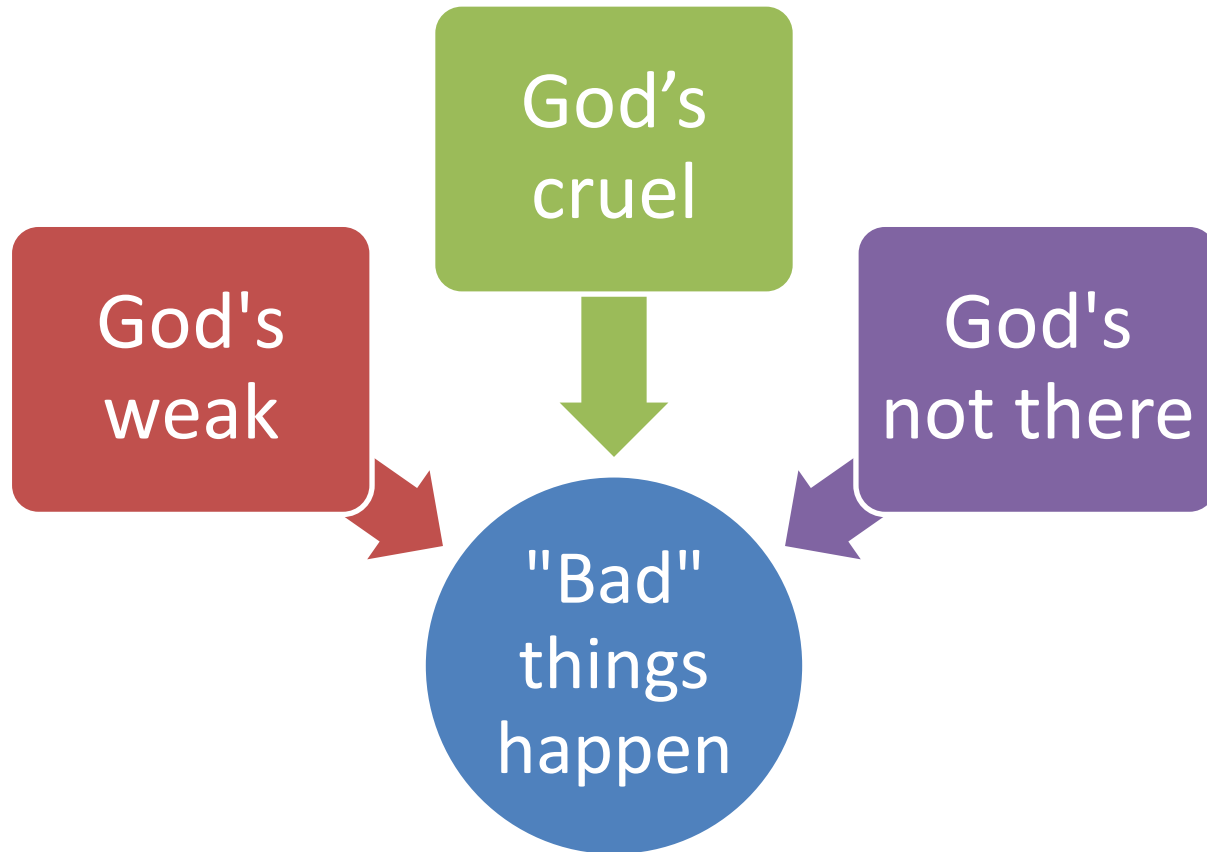
- How do people suffer?
- What questions does this raise?
- Is there anything new about these questions?

- What factors influence how to answer questions about suffering?
- What assumptions might the questioner have?

Our Question?



Possible conclusion?



- What are some of the inconsistencies of the non-believer's argument?

Building an answer

- **Broken World (Gen 3)**
 - Original Sin and the Fall
 - Actual Sin as Sinners
 - Suffering as God's judgment

Exercise: Luke 13:1-5. What is instructive about Jesus' response?

Building an answer

- **Broken World (Gen 3)**
- **Sovereign God (Job)**

Exercise: what do we learn from Job?

Building an answer

- **Broken World (Gen 3)**
- **Sovereign God (Job)**
 - Mystery of God's Providence
 - "innocent" suffering sometimes happens for no obvious purpose
 - God will do the right thing
 - Suffering is sometimes for a revealed purpose of God
 - Philosophical arguments about the mystery of evil/suffering...

Building an answer

- **Broken World (Gen 3)**
- **Sovereign God (Job)**
- **The Cross (Matt 8:16,17)**
 - Confirms how bad sin is
 - Illustrates suffering for a purpose
 - Puts our suffering in perspective
 - Shows sympathy
 - Model for our lives

Building an answer

- **Broken World (Gen 3)**
- **Sovereign God (Job)**
- **The Cross (Matt 8:16,17)**
- **The Future (Rev 21, 22)**
 - This world not perfect or perfectable
 - The next world will be perfect... and so much better

God is sovereign but there is a mytery in how this operates that we cannot understand but one day all will be right

God's sovereignty demonstrated at the Cross

God is good but bad things happen because the world is broken

The Cross tells us God is good and restoring the broken world

God is just

Sin has consequences in life and death
Justice demonstrated at the Cross

We trust
even as
we suffer

Case Study

- What words would you use to a suffering Christian?
- What might you say to a non-Christian?