

# Questions people ask

## **Week 1**

What's so special about Christianity: isn't it just another religion and just a matter of opinion?

## **Week 2**

Why is there so much suffering in the world – does Jesus care about my pain

## **Week 3**

Isn't Christianity intolerant and arrogant?

## **Week 4**

Hasn't Science answered all the fundamental questions of life?

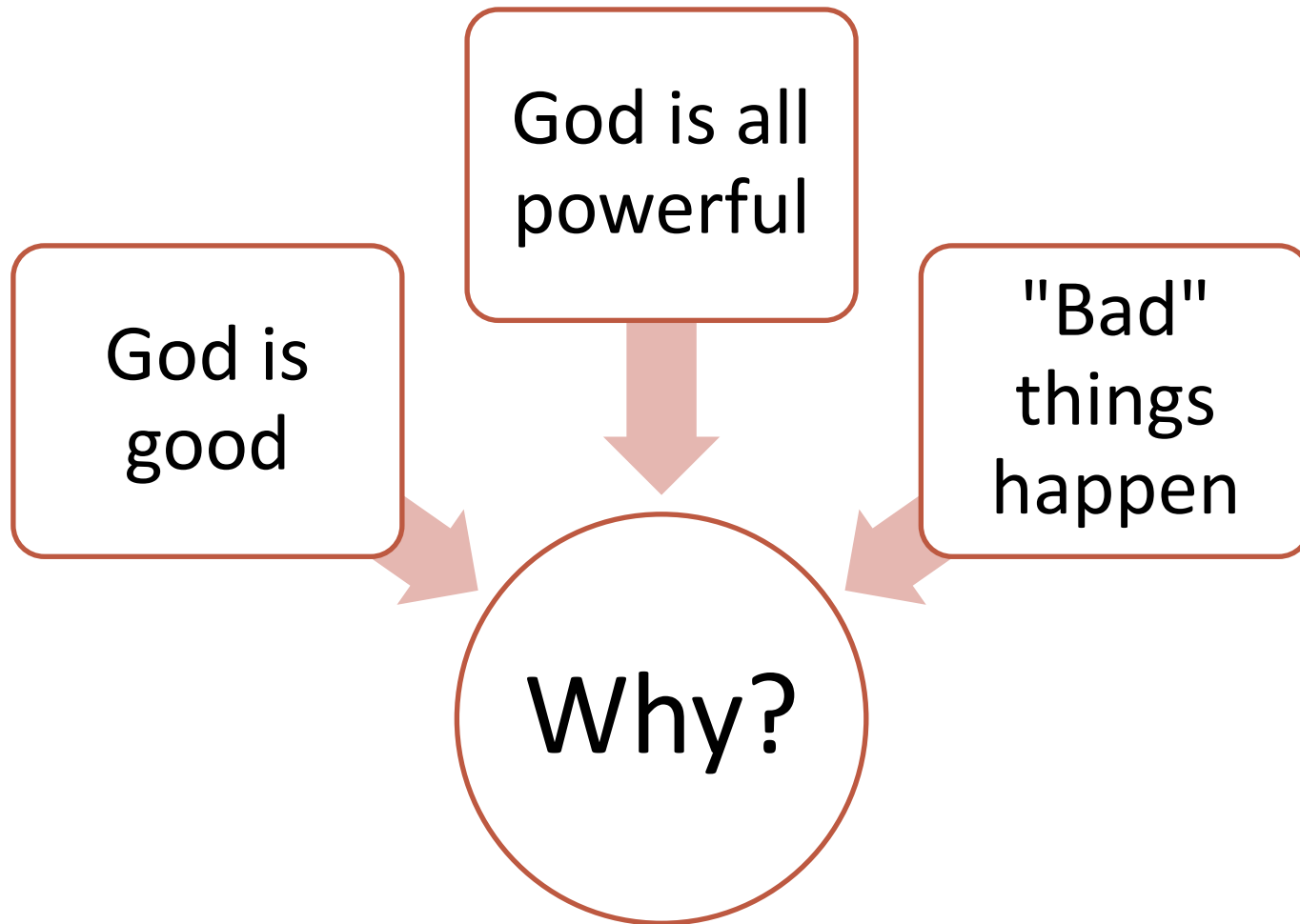
Questions people ask: Week 2

Why do people suffer

# Discussion

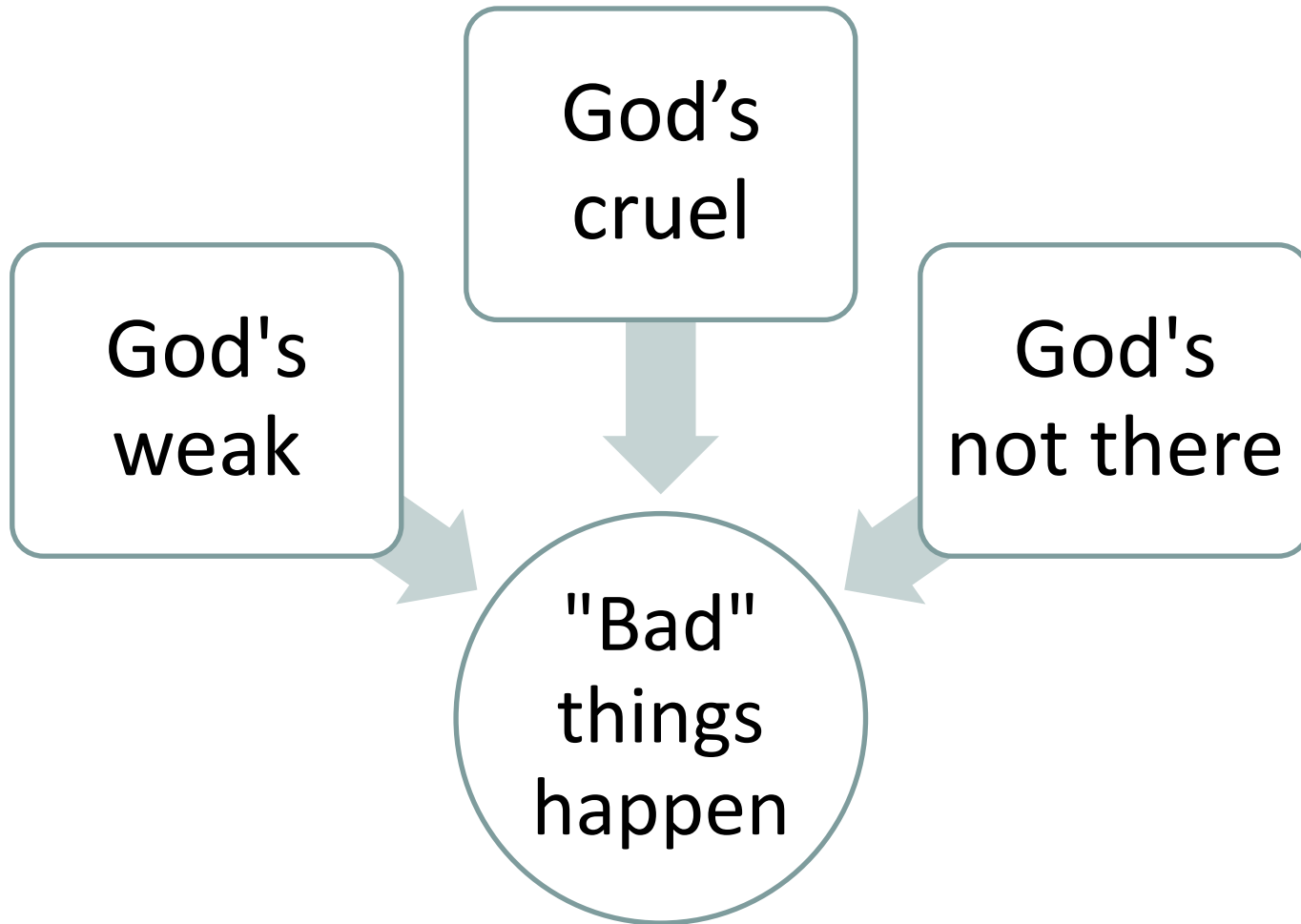
- How do people suffer?
- What questions does this raise?
- Is there anything new about these questions?

# The Question?



- What factors influence how to answer questions about suffering?

# Possible conclusion?



# Possible conclusion?



- What are some of the inconsistencies of the non-believer's argument?
- What assumptions might the questioner have?
- What sympathy do we have with the 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**

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