

# Why Does Evil Exist?

Week of August 7, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

## Message Recap:

Read Matthew 13:24-30

If we watch the news, scroll through our newsfeeds, or read the papers, we are inundated with stories and images of the evils of our world....murder, war, violence, injustice. As Christians we might ask ourselves, “Why doesn’t God just wipe out all evil?” The problem is our interpretation of evil. We tend to compare ourselves with the worst of society and therefore think, “I’m not so bad.” But evil is anything we do that is against God—in essence, evil is our sin. God doesn’t measure our sin by size; we are all evil because we all have sin in our lives. If God wiped out all evil, he would have to wipe out everyone he wanted to redeem. And so the weeds and the wheat will have to live together until the harvest—because there is always a chance to save a weed.

## Pray

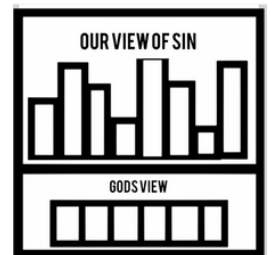
Father, I confess that I am evil, and that the only good in my life comes from you. You can redeem all of my sin, everything that is evil in your sight. I give it all to you and I pray that you will make beauty out of my dirt.

## Getting Started

- Have you ever had to pull weeds? What happens when weeds overtake a garden?
- What would you say are the weeds in our society?

## Listening Deeply

1. How would you define evil? Did the message this week make you think of evil differently?
2. Look at the chart here; have you ever compared sins or thought, “Well at least I haven’t \_\_\_\_\_.” Do you think people treat sins as if they have different severity? Share an example.
3. Using that same chart, discuss the difference between how God views sin and how we view sins.
4. How does the way God views sin change the way you think about evil?
5. What are the smudges in your life that need to be redeemed by Jesus?
6. And now, why do you think God doesn’t just wipe out all evil?



## Living Wide in Jesus

According to God, all sin is evil. Sin is sin and there is no great sin or small sin. But all good things come from God. Including redemption. The redemption of all the things in your life that make you dirty before God. There is no room from pride or comparison. There is only humility realizing that Jesus has provided a way for you to change the weeds into wheat. And that way is available to everyone—every person, good or bad, deserves the chance for salvation. This week, allow Jesus to redeem the things that make you dirty before God, and share the love of Jesus with those around you because Jesus always has a way to make wheat from the weeds.