

MESSAGE SUMMARY

We live in a broken and divided world where evil and grief are part of daily life, whether through tragedies in the news, like political violence and public attacks, or personal trials in our own homes and communities. The Bible does not ignore these realities but shows us how to respond.

Big Idea: Evil is real. Grief is heavy. But Jesus gives us hope.

MAIN POINTS

1. What do we do with evil?

- Remember the goodness of God (Jeremiah 2:13; Romans 1:24–25; C.S. Lewis quote).
- Recognize the spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:10–12; 1 Peter 5:8–9; 2 Timothy 3:1–5, 12–14).
- Remain confident in God's victory (John 16:33; Colossians 2:13–15).

2. What do we do with grief?

- Reach up to God in prayer and worship (John 11:35; Psalm 34:18; Philippians 4:6–7).
- Reach into community for support (Galatians 6:2).
- Reach out to others with compassion (Romans 12:15).

Closing Encouragements

- For Yesterday: Repent and turn to God (2 Chronicles 7:14).
- For Today: Live in God's Spirit of power, love, and self-control (2 Timothy 1:7).
- For Tomorrow: Trust that God is preparing eternal glory beyond comparison (2 Corinthians 4:17).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When we see evil in the news (like political violence or attacks), why is it important to “remember the goodness of God”? *Possible Answer:* Because it assures us that evil and suffering are not the whole story. God's goodness reminds us that He is working redemption even in dark times, and that His plans are ultimately for our good and His glory (Romans 8:28; Psalm 145:9).

2. How can recognizing that we're in a spiritual battle change the way we respond to cultural and political division? *Possible Answer:* It reminds us that people are not the ultimate enemy, Satan is. Our fight is not against flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12). This leads us to prayer, faith, and gospel witness instead of hatred.

3. When facing grief, how does “reaching up to God” bring comfort that nothing else can? *Possible Answer:* God draws near to the brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18). He gives supernatural peace (Philippians 4:7) and reminds us we are never alone, even in tears (John 11:35).

4. Why do you think God calls us to “bear one another's burdens” (Galatians 6:2) and “weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15) instead of just dealing with grief privately? *Possible Answer:* Because God designed us for community. When we share grief, the burden becomes lighter, and God's love becomes visible through His people. God delivers His grace through His people!

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Evil in the world points us to our need for rescue beyond human solutions. Grief reminds us that sin has broken this world, and death is our enemy. But the good news of the gospel is that Jesus entered into our suffering, conquered sin at the cross, and defeated death through His resurrection (Colossians 2:13–15). Through Jesus, we can have forgiveness, peace, and eternal hope. Our ultimate hope is not found in politics, culture, or even temporary safety, but in Christ alone. If you have not yet repented and are trusting in Christ, today is the day. Turn from sin, believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord, and receive His forgiveness and eternal hope (Romans 10:9–10). If you are in Christ, take courage; He has overcome the world (John 16:33).

PERSONAL DAILY DEVOTIONS

Monday – Remember the Goodness of God

Key Verse: “*Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!*” (Psalm 34:8)

Reflection: When we see evil in the world, whether violence in the news or injustice around us, it's easy to question God's goodness. But the very fact that we recognize evil means we know what good should look like and ultimate goodness is defined by God Himself. He is the standard against which all wrong is measured. Evil does not erase God's goodness; instead, God's goodness is what gives us hope in the face of evil.

Application Question: Why is remembering God's goodness important when evil feels overwhelming? *Possible Answer:* Because it reminds us that God is still in control, and that evil is not the final word (Romans 8:28).

Prayer Response: “Lord, help me to remember that You are good, even when I see evil around me. Anchor me in Your truth so I may not lose heart, In Jesus' Name, Amen.”

(Sources: Psalm 34:8; Jeremiah 2:13; Romans 1:24–25; Romans 8:28)

Tuesday – Recognize the Spiritual Battle

Key Verse: “*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*” (Ephesians 6:12)

Reflection: Evil is not only political, social, or cultural; it's ultimately spiritual. Satan seeks to divide, distract, and destroy. The devil is real, but so is our armor in Christ. Recognizing this helps us not to demonize people but to stand firm in prayer and truth. Our fight is not against one another but against spiritual forces of darkness.

Application Question: How does seeing evil as spiritual rather than just human conflict shape your response? *Possible Answer:* It keeps me from hating people and moves me to pray for God's strength and victory (1 Peter 5:8–9).

Prayer Response: “Father, help me see with spiritual eyes. Remind me that my real enemy is Satan, not people. Strengthen me to put on Your armor daily, In Jesus' Name, Amen.”

(Sources: Ephesians 6:10–12; 1 Peter 5:8–9; 2 Timothy 3:1–5)

Wednesday – Remain Confident in God's Victory

Key Verse: “*In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*” (John 16:33)

Reflection: Evil is real, but it is not final. The cross and resurrection prove that Jesus has already disarmed the powers of darkness. Our confidence is not in governments, leaders, or human solutions, but in Christ who has conquered sin, death, and the grave. No matter how dark the world seems, the light of Christ shines brighter.

Application Question: What does it mean for you personally to “take heart” in Jesus' victory? *Possible Answer:* It means I can face trials without fear, knowing Christ has already won (Colossians 2:15). He will strengthen you spiritually and emotionally.

Prayer Response: “Lord Jesus, thank You that You have already won the battle. Help me live with courage, hope, and joy in Your victory, In Jesus' Name, Amen.”

(Sources: John 16:33; Colossians 2:13–15; Romans 8:37–39)

Thursday – Reach Up to God in Grief

Key Verse: “*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.*” (Psalm 34:18)

Reflection: When grief strikes whether from violence in the news or personal loss God invites us to bring our pain to Him. Jesus Himself wept (John 11:35), proving that tears are not a sign of weak faith but of honest trust. In prayer, worship, and Scripture, God gives us peace that the world cannot provide.

Application Question: What step can you take today to bring your heart to God in your grief? *Possible Answer:* I can pray honestly, telling God my fears and hurts, and trust Him to comfort me (Philippians 4:6–7).

Prayer Response: “Father, I bring my grief to You. Draw near to me as You promised, and give me peace that surpasses understanding, In Jesus' Name, Amen.”

(Sources: Psalm 34:18; John 11:35; Philippians 4:6–7)

Friday – Reach into Community & Reach Out to Others

Key Verse: “*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*” (Galatians 6:2)

Reflection: God never intended us to walk through grief or face evil alone. He gave us the church to carry one another's burdens and to weep with those who weep (Romans 12:15). At the same time, He calls us to extend His comfort outward, showing compassion to others who are hurting. Community is both a shelter and a mission field.

Application Question: How can you bear someone's burden or extend compassion this week? *Possible Answer:* By listening to someone in pain, praying with them, or meeting a practical need (Romans 12:15).

Prayer Response: “Lord, help me not to walk alone or let others walk alone. Give me eyes to see who needs encouragement and strength to show Your love, In Jesus' Name, Amen.”

(Sources: Galatians 6:2; Romans 12:15; 2 Corinthians 1:3–4)