

MAKING SENSE OF MY LIFE IN  
**GOD'S STORY**



# 1

*Why is the world so messed up? And why does God allow such bad things to happen to good people?*

These are common questions people ask of God and those who follow him.

And all too often, we give unclear answers because it's hard to address doubts that are rooted in painful experiences—the kind of things that rob us of contentment and hope.

That's why questions like these require more than pat answers and trite clichés. To answer them well, a more basic question must first be asked...



# 2

## WHY DID GOD MAKE THE WORLD AND THE PEOPLE IN IT?

When God made the world, he created a perfect place for people to live. He allowed mankind to be in charge of the earth, hoping we would see his goodness and respond to his love. In other words, when God made us, he gave us everything we needed for a life of peace and harmony with him and with one another. And while that was his intent, that clearly isn't life as we know it today.

So, where did things go so wrong?

*"The heavens are yours, and the earth is yours; everything in the world is yours—you created it all." Psalm 89:11*

# 3

## WHY IS THE WORLD SO MESSED UP?

God didn't make us robots, forcing us to live life his way and love him return.

He gave us a choice. We could live in relationship with God by trusting his goodness or live our own way and die trying. Sadly, we disobeyed God and turned from him, believing we could find life on our own.

This choice not only put us at odds with God but with each other. So this messed up world we live in today is not the good world that God created; it's the result of us thumbing our noses at God, believing we could do better.

So, is there any hope?

*"The Lord looks down from heaven on the entire human race...to see if anyone seeks God...but all have turned away...all have become corrupt."* Psalm 14:2-3



# 4

## IS GOD GOING TO LET US DESTROY OURSELVES?

No. Although we rejected God's first offer of life, he has extended the same offer again—this time, through his son Jesus.

If you want to know what God is really like, look at Jesus. In Jesus, we see God up close and personal—loving us, caring for us, forgiving us, and showing us the way back to the life he promised in the beginning.

Jesus died on the cross so our sins could be forgiven. But the Good News is, he rose from the dead to give us a new life with God, both now and forever.

But you may be wondering...

*"And Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and he is supreme over all creation."* **Colossians 1:15**

# 5

## HOW'S IT ALL GOING TO END?

One day, Jesus is coming back to correct every wrong and make everything right. When he does, the world will finally be all that God intended from the start.

With perfect fairness, he will judge everyone based on whether they believed in him and the new life he's offered. Those who reject him will be separated from God forever, but those who trust in Jesus will have a certain hope of a never-ending life with him. And that life will be more beautiful than we can imagine, consumed by enjoying God forever.

**To make sense of your life in God's story, how should you respond?**

*"Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again...to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him."* **Hebrews 9:28**

# 6

First, you must admit to God that you're the reason your life is flawed and you can't do anything to earn or deserve his forgiveness. Second, you must trust that what Jesus did for you is all you need to start a brand new life with God.

By sending Jesus to be punished in your place, God has shown how far he's willing to go to rescue you. Remember, he will not force you to believe, but the choice you make will stand forever.

So if your heart is awakened by the desire to re-enter this sacred romance that God intended from the start, tell him now. Tell God you know you're flawed, and that you need his forgiveness to really live. Tell him you are trusting in Jesus—his death and resurrection—to forgive your sin and to give you a brand new life with God.

If you want to tell God now, pray this simple prayer:

*Jesus, now I understand how much you love me. I know I've turned my back on you, but I thank you for opening my eyes to the truth. I am a sinner that needs your forgiveness. Thank you for living the life I could never live, for dying in my place, and for rising again to make my new life possible. I take you at your word to forgive me, and right now, I'm turning from my sin and trusting you for forgiveness and a new life.*

*"Jesus said, I tell you the truth, anyone who trusts in me has eternal life." John 6:47*

If you'd like to know more about this life that God offers, and his hope for you, please visit [fellowshipgreenville.org/newlife](http://fellowshipgreenville.org/newlife). Or just call us at (864) 234-7033 and tell us that you've read this booklet and would like to speak to someone to learn more about what it means to trust Jesus with your life.



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