

**I Have A Friend Who...**  
**#1: Wonders Why God Allows Suffering?**

**How could a loving and all-powerful God allow a world with so much suffering and evil?**

Theory #1: God \_\_\_\_\_

Theory #2: God exists, but not \_\_\_\_\_

Theory #3: God \_\_\_\_\_ a long time ago

Theory #4: God \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 1:** God created a perfect world & perfect humans without evil and suffering.

**Genesis 1:27,31** *“So God created people in his own image...Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was excellent in every way.”*

**Step 2:** God created humans with freedom to choose between enjoying a relationship with Him or rejecting Him.

**Genesis 2:16,17** *“But the LORD God gave him this warning: ‘You may freely eat any fruit in the garden except fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat of its fruit, you will surely die.’”*

**Step 3:** Humanity freely chose to turn away from God

**Genesis 3:6** *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*

**Step 4:** Evil and suffering entered the world as a result of humanity's choice and we became separated from God.

**Genesis 3:14-24**

**Why doesn't God do something about it NOW???**

Option #1: Destroy us all \_\_\_\_\_

Option #2: Get rid of all \_\_\_\_\_

Option #3: Override \_\_\_\_\_

Option #4: \_\_\_\_\_

**Norman Geisler** *We have a real choice about what we do. God made us that way so we could be like Him and could love freely. But in making us that way he also allowed for the possibility of evil. To be free we had to have not only the opportunity to choose good, but also the ability to choose evil. That was the risk God knowingly took. That doesn't make him responsible for evil. He created the fact of freedom; we perform the acts of freedom. He made evil possible; men made evil actual.*

**God has done something**

**Option #5:** He chose to pay for our evil actions so we could be forgiven & have the opportunity for a relationship with Him.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** *For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.*