

## **Why God Allows Evil – Study Guide – (Session 2 – Chapter 1)**

1. The Setting
2. The Origin of Natural Evil
3. Why Did Adam Sin?
4. Why Do We Suffer for Adam's Sin?
  1. Federal or Representative Headship
  2. Realistic or Seminal Union
  3. Traducianism
5. Tragedy Can Become a Blessing

## **Study Questions: Session 2 – Chapter 1 “Why Do We Suffer for Adam’s Sin?”**

1. How is the structure of the family important in understanding how God works in our lives and with His created beings?
2. Where Eve’s pain in child-bearing come from?
3. Why was the ground cursed so that Adam required hard labor to extract its fruit?
4. How do questions (2) and (3) relate to our lives today? It was a really long time ago, so does this have any impact on us?
5. (Read the last paragraph starting at the bottom of page 31 through the middle of page 32).
  - a. What caused the creation to be “subjected to futility” (Romans 8:20)?
  - b. Why does the creation suffering for what Adam did?
6. (Read the second-to-last paragraph of page 33 and Colossians 1:19-20). What does the word “reconcile” mean in relation to the creation?
7. Why do we suffer for Adam’s sin?  
(Explain your answer in terms of one of the three answers explained in the book: federal headship, seminal union, or traducianism.)
8. What do you think is the most important difference between traducianism and the other explanations (i.e., federal headship / seminal union)?
9. How does “special creation” explain origin of the soul? (*last paragraph p. 40*)
10. Does the answer to the previous question make God more or less responsible for the evil in mankind?

**Some technical terms:**

Federal or Representative Headship – God knows who can best represent us. Adam's sin is imputed to our account because we are his descendants in the same way Jesus' righteousness is imputed to us when we become Christians.

Realistic or Seminal Union – We were all present genetically in Adam when he sinned. Therefore, we are all guilty of sin as Adam was.

Traducianism – Through reproduction, we obtain our own soul and consciousness. The sin nature is also transferred all the way from Adam to us.

Theodicy – an explanation of God's good reasons for allowing evil