

## Questions

### Characters:

ONE  
TWO  
THREE  
FOUR

**Props:** overstuffed chairs and sofas; end tables;  
four periodicals

**Creative Note:** Four students discuss the problem of evil, the questions it raises for today, and the answers the Bible provides for it. The idea is for this to make students uncomfortable.

*(Four friends are sitting in a lounge area similar to those found in bookstores. Each is engaged in reading a periodical of some sort.)*

ONE: You're not going to believe this.

TWO: *(not looking up)* What?

ONE: They're back together again.

TWO: You're kidding.

ONE: Says they're working it out. That they're really in love this time.

TWO: This time. Right. Just like every other time. If that's love, count me out.

ONE: No kidding.

THREE: *(to FOUR)* What are you reading?

FOUR: There was another bombing.

TWO: You're kidding.

FOUR: No. Third one in as many weeks.

THREE: What's the world coming to?

FOUR: "Prepare to meet your God . . ."

ONE: Excuse me?

FOUR: It's a common theme.

THREE: How so?

FOUR: Throughout the Bible, God is always punishing those who disobey Him.

TWO: So what?

ONE: So what? If you look at the world, it looks like there is a lot of punishment going on.

THREE: You think the awful stuff happening in the world is God's punishment?

ONE: I don't know if it is or not, but I sure think it could be. Look, just take the greatest commandment: "Love God and love your neighbor." Do you see the world full of loving people? When I look at it, it seems to be full of the opposite. I mean, if you take the statistics of violent crime or cancer or car accidents by themselves, they don't necessarily look so bad. But when you put them together, you realize something terrible could happen to you.

FOUR: "Although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him . . . Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to impurity . . . They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator."

ONE: Yeah, yeah, yeah. It's our fault. I got it.

FOUR: "For all have sinned . . ."

THREE: So we messed up, or mess up, or whatever. Why doesn't He just come and fix it?

TWO: What do you mean? He did.

FOUR: "For God so loved the world . . ."

FOUR &  
TWO: "That He gave His only begotten Son . . ."

ALL: "That whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

ONE: Yeah. True. But what about the time between Jesus coming and Jesus coming back. Why not go ahead and judge all the evil in the world and carry the rest of us away to be with Him? Why doesn't He get on with it?

FOUR: "Who is it that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge?"

ONE: Excuse me?

FOUR: "Where were you when I laid the foundation? . . . Have you ever given orders to the morning . . . Can you raise your voice to the clouds . . . Do you give the horse his strength . . . Does the eagle soar at your command?"

THREE: All right. I get it. But that's a little harsh, don't you think?

TWO: No. We're not God. We don't fully understand Him or His love. But we can try. We can learn more about Him and His love.

ONE: OK. I agree with everything you've said. But don't you think that's an easy answer? The reality is that I still feel lonely sometimes or hurt or depressed. I still get sick and have fights with my parents.

THREE: Me too. I don't always feel loved.

TWO: Me neither. I struggle with feeling good about myself.

FOUR: We all have those problems. But we change. And our problems change. But God and His love don't change. They're constant in spite of the world around us.

THREE: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?"

TWO: "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

ONE: "For neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons . . ."

THREE: "Neither the present nor the future, nor any powers . . ."

FOUR: "Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

THREE: "He who forms the mountains . . ."

ONE: "Creates the wind . . ."

FOUR: "And reveals his thoughts to man . . ."

TWO: "He who turns dawn to darkness . . ."

ONE: "And treads the high places of the earth . . ."

THREE: "The Lord God Almighty is his name."

FOUR: "Prepare to meet your God."

*(The End)*