

Why did God allow Coronavirus?

This is a big question that you may have asked when you have heard about all the sad and scary things that are happening in the world today. We know that God loves us and wants what is best for us, so why is Coronavirus allowed to be in the world making people sick?



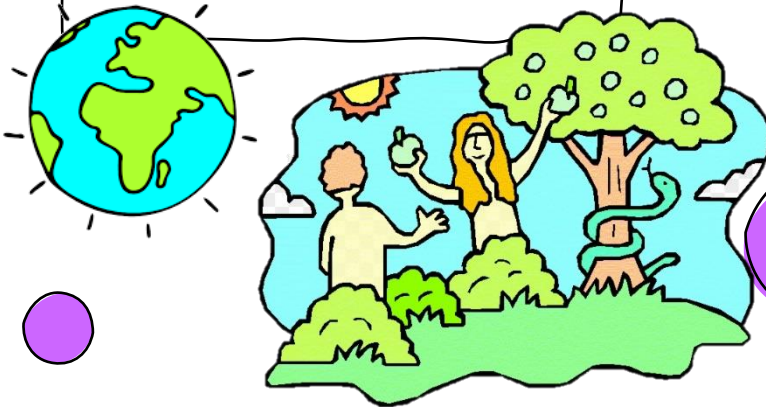
This was not God's plan

To answer this question, we have to go right back to the beginning of the world – when God created the universe and everything in it.

You can find the story of creation, at the beginning of the Bible in **Genesis Chapter 1.**

God's plan was to make a beautiful perfect world filled with wonderful things.

God created humans to live in the world and to be friends with Him. God created a beautiful place with no sickness or pain, where they would be happy and know his love every day.



So God made a new plan, a way to give all humans a second chance, to get rid of the sin and the punishment it came with. God sent his son Jesus to die on the cross and take the punishment for the sins of the world.

God invited everybody to be his friends again, to live with him in heaven, to have new bodies with no pain or sickness, to live forever with God in a place full of happiness.

But God also gave humans a choice – he would not force them to love him and to live the way he had planned for them.

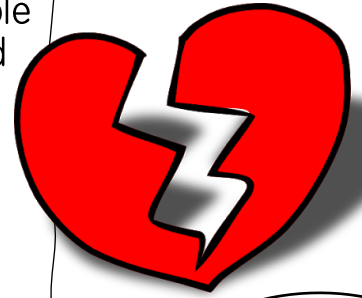
The first humans decided to turn away from God and to sin. When they did, the world stopped being the way God had planned it. Now, as well as all of God's good stuff there was bad stuff too, pain and sadness, sickness and death.

Keep reading to find out more...



Right now we still live in a broken and messy world which has horrible things in like sickness and death, but we know that God has invited everybody to be his friend, to receive the gift of forgiveness for our sins so that one day we will be with God in heaven.

We know that this is not how God wanted the world to be, that sickness and death make God feel upset and sad too.



So why doesn't God just stop it now?

The same God who gave the first humans choices is still giving us choices today. God wants everybody to have a chance to choose to follow him, to hear about His love and about Jesus' sacrifice. God is waiting for the perfect time to send his son back to earth once more and to fulfil everything He has promised.

Sometimes God makes us wait for things and it is really hard to understand why, but we must trust in God and his timing. God can see a bigger picture than us, He understands more than we ever will. We can choose to trust God and his promises even in these difficult times.



What can we do while we wait?

We can pray

The Bible promises us that when we pray, God hears us. It promises that our prayers have the power to change things.

Even as we wait and trust in God's timing we can be praying for an end to the Coronavirus. We can pray for those we know who are sick or at risk.

We can also listen to God when we pray, if there are things that are happening which scare, worry or confuse you then why not ask God to help you understand them and to feel at peace.

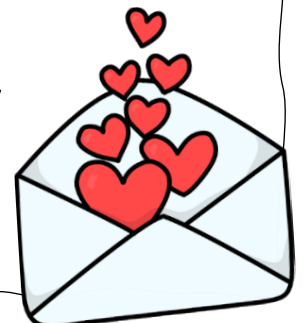
We can share God's love with others

We have a part to play in helping the world know that God loves them even in the middle of these difficult times when God might feel far away.

We can share the story of Jesus and help people make the choice to accept the forgiveness and promises that God has on offer for them.

We can share God's love ourselves by showing kindness and generosity to the world.

We can love our friends, family and neighbours, pray for them and support them during these difficult times.



Your Kingdom Come!

Jesus prayed "Your Kingdom Come" when he was on the earth. He prayed that just like heaven is, earth would be a place where God was in charge, a place of happiness, healthiness and joy. We can pray that same prayer today and hold on to God's promises of hope for our future.

Psalm 116 v 1

I love the Lord, because he listens to my prayers for help.

God hears us when we pray!

Mark 11 v 24

So I tell you to believe that you have received the things you ask for in prayer, and God will give them to you.

God answers our prayers!

Jeremiah 29 v 11

I say this because I know what I am planning for you," says the Lord. "I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future.

God promises a good future.

Psalm 30 v 5

Crying may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

The difficult times are not forever

John 15 v 12

Love each other as I have loved you.

We have a part to play.

A glimpse of heaven

God gave a glimpse of what heaven will be like to a man called John who wrote down everything he saw in the book of Revelation – the last book of the Bible. It shows a time when everything returns to how it should be.

"Now God's presence is with people, and he will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain, because all the old ways are gone."

On days when we feel scared or worried by what is happening in the world, we can read this passage and remember that there is a wonderful future promised where there is no more Coronavirus.

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AN EXPLANATION FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

When God created the world, he wanted it to be a beautiful safe place where nobody was sick, and everybody was happy and knew how much God loved them.

The world was just as God planned.



But people chose to turn away from God, to sin and behave in ways that made God unhappy. People hurt one another and God.

The world did not look so beautiful and safe anymore. The messy mistakes of the world got in the way of being friends with God.

It was not how God wanted it to be anymore.

Even though the world is messy and people are sometimes sick and sad we know that this was not how God wanted it to be.

The coronavirus makes God sad too, because he loves and cares for all of us.



God sent Jesus to die on the cross so that all the sins and messy mistakes of the world could be forgiven.

Everybody is invited to be friends with God and one day we will get to live with God in heaven. Heaven is a beautiful safe place where nobody is sick, and everybody is happy and know how much God loves them.

It will be just like God planned once more.



What can I do?

We know that God hears us when we pray so we can pray and ask God to **STOP** the virus. We can pray that earth would be like heaven just as God planned it.

We can practice being patient and **WAIT**. We know that God has good plans for the future and always keeps his promises.

We can **GO** and share God's love with others by helping and caring for them during lockdown. How can you share God's love with your family and friends today?

