

## DVD STUDY GUIDE

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# EVIL

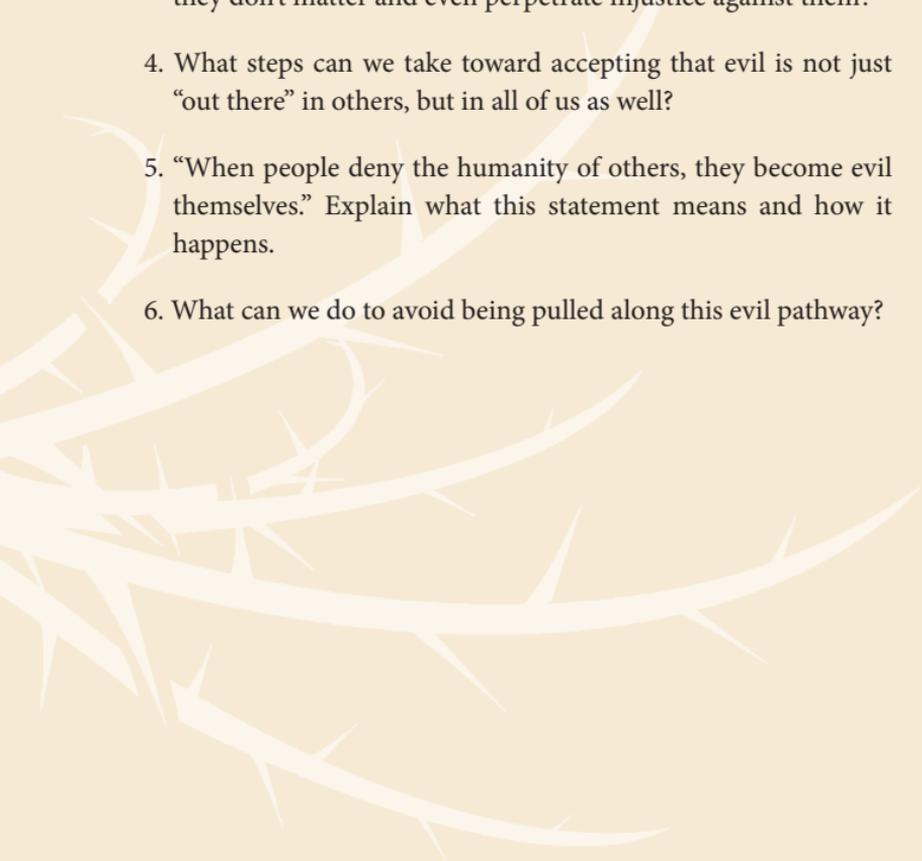
FEATURING N. T. (Tom) Wright

This DVD may be used in conjunction with N. T. Wright's book *Evil and the Justice of God*. This guide can be used to facilitate a classroom, small group or Sunday school class discussion based on the DVD *Evil* featuring N. T. (Tom) Wright. Groups may use the video for two or four hourlong sessions. For four hourlong sessions, thirty to forty-five minutes of discussion may follow the viewing of each segment. For two hourlong sessions, ten to fifteen minutes of discussion may follow the viewing of each segment. The time (in minutes and seconds) of each segment is indicated in parentheses after each segment title.

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## SEGMENT ONE

### *Introduction—What Is Evil? (9:20)*

1. We can't honestly look at the world without realizing there is serious evil going on all the time. What are some specific instances of evil—whether political, social, natural or personal—that we see in the world around us?
  2. In what ways do the “arrogance of modern life” and society's belief in progress fail to allow room for an honest assessment of evil and a genuine need for God?
  3. How does labeling others as “evil” enable us to treat them as if they don't matter and even perpetrate injustice against them?
  4. What steps can we take toward accepting that evil is not just “out there” in others, but in all of us as well?
  5. “When people deny the humanity of others, they become evil themselves.” Explain what this statement means and how it happens.
  6. What can we do to avoid being pulled along this evil pathway?
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## SEGMENT TWO

### *Old Testament Perspectives on Evil (16:50)*

1. Why is it significant that the Bible doesn't give us a theory of evil, but rather tells us the story of evil and the actions God undertakes to deal with it?
2. How does this way of addressing the problem demonstrate a sensitivity to the way the progression of evil actually works?
3. Why might a God who had the power to act unilaterally (that is, by "waving a magic wand") to make the world right choose instead the messy, painful route of working from within his created order and allowing human free will to enter the picture?
4. What does this tell us about God and about the value of God's creation?
5. The people of Israel bore tremendous suffering throughout their existence as God's chosen ones. How is the suffering of God's people related to God's way of overcoming evil in the world?
6. In what sense might God's way of dealing with evil seem "backward" or even contradictory to us?
7. In the midst of their many years of oppression, the people of Israel began hoping for God to send a Messiah who would finally rescue them from evil and set the world right. In what ways did the prophet Isaiah transform this vision of a coming Messiah (see especially Isaiah 53)?
8. How does his vision shed light on the place of evil in the life of God's chosen people, and how does it serve to prepare the people of Israel for the coming of Jesus?

## SEGMENT THREE

### *New Testament Perspectives on Evil (10:30)*

1. Why is it important to read the events of Jesus' life, death and resurrection in the light of the story of the people of Israel?
2. What is the significance of the fact that Jesus, just like Israel, was led into the wilderness to face the power of evil?
3. In what specific ways was Jesus tempted to be the kind of Messiah that most of God's people were expecting?
4. What can we learn from Jesus' absolute refusal to use evil to defeat evil?
5. In what ways was the kingdom of God that Jesus proclaimed in his teaching different from the vision of God's kingdom that most Jews in Jesus' time held?
6. What are some of Jesus' specific teachings that would have sounded completely backward to them?
7. In what ways do these same ideas challenge the prevailing worldviews in our own time?
8. In what ways is evil defeated, and God's faithfulness to his people and to his whole creation fully demonstrated, by the cross of Jesus?

## SEGMENT FOUR

### *What Can We Do About Evil? (12:30)*

1. In what ways did Jesus himself live out the kingdom ethic that he proclaimed to his followers?
2. How are we to live out his teachings—turning the other cheek, going the extra mile, loving our enemies—as his followers in our own turbulent world today?
3. What characterizes God’s “new world” that came into being at the resurrection of Jesus?
4. How are we to make sense of the tension between the continued existence of the old world full of sin and death and violence, and the unfolding of the new world full of hope and resurrection and life?
5. How has the Commission for Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa sought to put into practice the victory accomplished by Jesus at the cross?
6. What makes the approach of the Commission so unique in our world?
7. How does the model demonstrated by the Commission pose a challenge to the leaders of the United States, Britain and other nations who claim to operate on Christian values?
8. In what ways can we work toward reconciliation, forgiveness, justice and peace in different areas of our lives, whether in the political or social sphere or in our own churches and families?



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