According to Ronald M. Green in his article “Building Baby from the Genes Up,” two British couples wanted to eradicate breast cancer from their bloodline once and for all by modifying the genes of their fetuses, which raised a problem. The Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority (HFEA, the agency that regulates such requests) took the risk and approved both families’ requests; however, the fact that an embryo with cancer genes could live for many years before developing the disease made people ask whether or not such procedure warranted selecting and discarding embryos. HFEA’s decision could ignite a spark in the human gene research and allow people to eradicate genetic diseases like cancer, obesity and dyslexia. However, there are negatives to this procedure, which could increase the division of the rich and poor and lead to other unforeseeable consequences – it is up to the scientists to use gene editing with caution and for a good cause.

Answers to the questions:

1. Yes, we can. At some point in the future, because the science in gene editing is growing rapidly, the benefit-risk ratio will be in favor of the benefit, which will allow people to safely improve their lives. This may come soon.
2. Off-target effect: you may cause a change in a genome that you didn’t want to change. Mosaic effect: some of embryos cells are edited, some of them are unedited, which means that the unwanted genes may pass on to the next generation.
3. Precision and safety, religious problems, inequality (poor – rich). Also moral problems: by modifying your genes you will modify the genes of your children, whether they want it or not.