

Suffering

Over the next 5 weeks at Quiz Worx Home Delivery, we will be looking at the topic of suffering and what the Bible says about it. Suffering is a major part of life for many people; for those who experience it and for those who witness other people go through it. Suffering has been a fundamental human experience almost since time began, and it is still obvious in our world today.

The Bible tells us that even though God created everything good, people ignored and rejected God, and one of the consequences of that is that there is now suffering in the world.

But there is great news! The great news is that the Bible tells us that even in the worst times, God is always in control. He cares about our suffering and He is actively working things out for good.

To explore these truths with your children, we have included some accompanying discussion questions. We have also provided some further 'Digging Deeper' family devotions to help you and your family discover more about how God is in control even through suffering.

There's no denying that suffering is a very heavy thing to think and talk about. But our prayer is that, as you explore the topic of suffering, both you and your children's trust in Jesus will grow deeper and stronger.

Suffering

Part 1

Why is there Suffering?

Discussion Questions after 'Why is there Suffering?' Kid's Talk Video

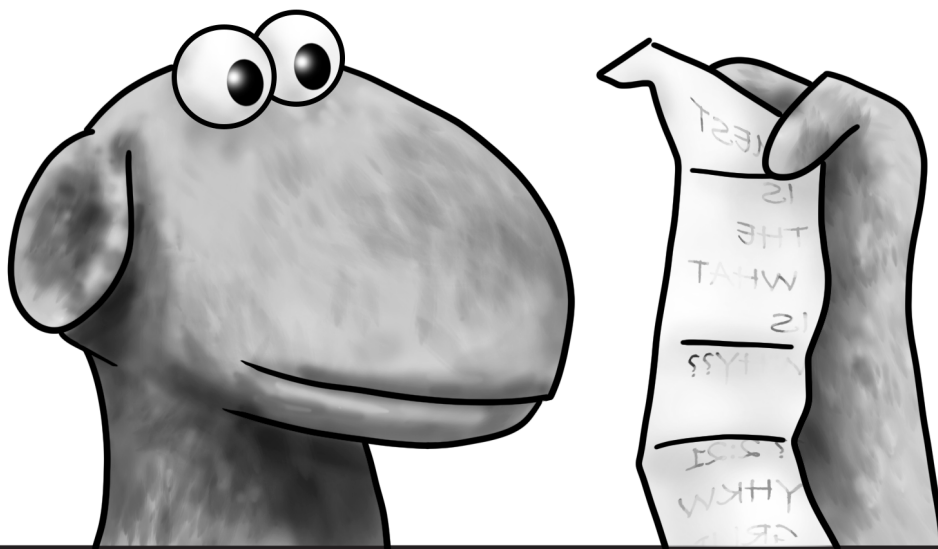
In today's video, MAtt shows us from the Bible that God made everything good. But it's not that way anymore. At least part of the reason for that is because people chose to disobey God. But while this has affected everything, Jesus showed that God is always good, God is always loving, and God is always in control.

1. Why can we have hope even when we or someone we love suffers?
2. How does it make you feel to hear that we don't always have the answers as to why we suffer?
3. How does it make you feel to know that God is always in control?

Pray

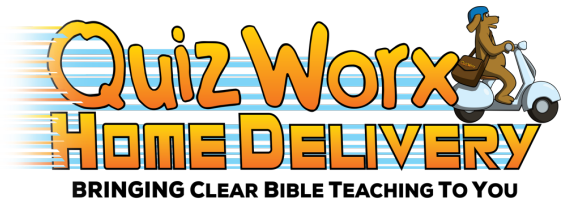
Thank God that He is still in control, even though there is suffering in the world.

Pray for any friends you know who are suffering. Pray that they would continue to hold onto Jesus, even while they suffer. If you or your family are suffering, you can pray that you would hold onto Jesus too.



Digging Deeper

Family Devotions



How to use 'Digging Deeper' for the 'Suffering' series.

To help you think more about how God is still in control, even when we suffer, we have provided three devotions. We encourage you to read these passages with those in your household at a time that suits and use the questions to guide you as you talk about and reflect on who Jesus is.

We looked at several different Bible translations when creating these questions. Feel free to use any version as you work through them as a family.

Memory Verse Challenge

The Memory Verse for our 'Suffering' series is from Romans 8:28. We've created a fun memory verse rap to help you learn these words of Jesus! You can find the memory verse video in the 'Suffering' folder on the Google Drive or you can watch it at: https://youtu.be/PN_3mK7BobA

Devotion 1 – Read Genesis 1:31 & 3:9-19

These passages show us how God made everything in the world, including people, and he made it good! But because people chose to disobey God, this world is now full of suffering.

Read Genesis 1:31

1. How is the world that God made described?

Read Genesis 3:9-19

2. This passage tells us that Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree that God told them not to eat from. What reason is given for why they did that?
3. How does God punish Adam and Eve?
4. How do you feel about the way that God punished Adam and Eve?

Pray

Thank God that He made the world good, without suffering.

Thank God that living His way is the best way.

Digging Deeper

Family Devotions

Devotion 2 – Read Job 4:7-9, 38:1-15 & 42:7

Job had lots of good things to enjoy but Job 1 and 2 tells us that everything was taken away from him, leading to great suffering. While Job's friends were certain that he was suffering because he'd done something wrong, God said that this wasn't true...

Read Job 4:7-9, then 42:7

1. Job's friend Eliphaz says that bad things only happen to those who do the wrong thing. How does this make you feel? Do you agree with him?
2. What does God say about Job's friends' view on why he was suffering?

Read Job 38:1-15

3. In this passage, God is using picture language to describe his relationship with huge things like the sea and the clouds. According to these verses, what is God able to do to all these things in nature?
4. If God is able to do this with huge natural things because he is in control of them all, what does that mean for people? Do people have the right to question God?
5. In this book, God never tells Job why he is suffering! How does that make you feel?

Pray

Praise God for the way that he is in control of everything in the universe!

Pray for someone you know who is suffering very badly. Pray that their suffering would draw them nearer to God and not away from Him, even when they don't understand why they are suffering.

Pray also for yourself and other people around them who trust Jesus. Pray that you would have wisdom and patience and you help your friend through their suffering.

Devotion 3 – Read Isaiah 53:1-6

While the Bible doesn't always give us complete answers as to why we suffer, Matt reminded us that the Bible tells us three things we can know for certain:

- 1) God is always good.
 - 2) God is always loving.
 - 3) God is always in control.
1. In Romans 5:3-5, the Apostle Paul tells us that if we trust Jesus, we "gladly suffer." Write a list of the reasons why Paul says we can do this.
 2. Paul says that suffering "gives us hope." What is this hope in? (see verse 2 for a clue).
 3. Why does Jesus dying and rising again show us that God is good, loving and in control?
 4. Does it always feel like God is good, loving and in control? When does it feel like He isn't? What are some ways you can remind yourself of these great truths?

Pray

Praise God that He raised Jesus to life! Praise Him that now sinners can be friends with God because Jesus is alive!

Pray that God would keep producing endurance, character and hope in you when you suffer.