



Asking for a Friend – If God is Real, Why is there Pain and Suffering? Participant Guide

Possibly the biggest reason people give to not believing in God is the reality of evil and suffering in the world.

- Discuss a time where you experienced pain and suffering // discuss a time you've seen evil in the world.
- How did you respond?
- Did it influence the way you viewed God?

People who are skeptical of God's existence and goodness often point to the idea that if God were real and good, then He would remove all suffering and evil from the world.

- What are some shortcomings to this argument?
- If God did this, what would it mean for us?

Sometimes pain/suffering don't push people away from God but actually toward Him.

- Have you ever seen someone who was suffering greatly but demonstrated extraordinary faith?
- How did that change the way you think about pain and suffering?

Christians believe that God has already played an active part in suffering and evil, by taking it all upon Himself on the cross.

- How does this encourage us to know we have a God who not only can relate to our pain and suffering, but endured it fully for us?
- How does this truth give us hope that one day there will be no more pain, suffering, or evil?

At some point in time we will all encounter evil and experience pain/suffering in our life.

- What is one step you can take this week to embrace Jesus and the hope He offers us?
- How can you change your perspective to see everything from an eternal point of view and embrace what Jesus has done?