

Why Does God Allow Suffering? (Part 1)

Based on chapter 11 of the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* available on jw.org.

OBJECTIVE: Explore what you believe and why, examine what the Bible teaches, and see how you can explain your beliefs to others.



IS GOD TO BLAME FOR OUR SUFFERING?

1 EXPLORE YOUR BELIEFS

Why might some people say yes?

Why might some say no?

What do you believe?

Why do you believe that?

2

EXAMINE WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

Jehovah does not want us to suffer.

(See chapter 11 of the *Bible Teach* book, paragraphs 1-5.)

Read 1 Peter 5:7.

How does this verse indicate that Jehovah does not want to see us suffer?

Read Job 34:10.

Does God cause suffering?



**Is the manufacturer of a vehicle responsible when the driver breaks traffic laws?
Likewise, is the Creator to blame for the problems that humans have caused?**

Satan and the results of his rebellion are the real causes of suffering.

(See chapter 11 of the *Bible Teach* book, paragraphs 6-9.)

Read 1 John 5:19; Revelation 12:9.

How do these verses show that it's really Satan who wants us to suffer?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:1; 8:9; 9:11.

Apart from the Devil's influence, why else do we sometimes suffer?

Why do you appreciate knowing that God does not want us to suffer and that he will help us when we do?

3

EXPLAIN YOUR BELIEFS

IF SOMEONE SAYS...

God is cruel. He wants people to suffer.

YOU MIGHT REPLY...

Many people would probably agree. But I believe differently because...

What scripture could you share with the person?

Bearing in mind the person's viewpoint, how would you reason on that scripture?

IF SOMEONE SAYS...

God controls the world, so all the bad things that happen must be his will.

YOU MIGHT REPLY...

That is a common teaching of many religions. But I believe that Satan is the real ruler of this world because...

What scripture could you share with the person?

Bearing in mind the person's viewpoint, how would you reason on that scripture?
