



"Why Does God Allow Bad Things to Happen"

Scouting Report

This is a very complex question deserving a very delicate answer. We live in a broken, fallen world. The very existence of pain and suffering causes some to conclude that God couldn't possibly exist. But as we'll see in the video, that is not a reasonable conclusion.

So why does God allow evil in the world?

The purpose of this module is to discuss the reasons why, if God is truly good, that bad things happen. It is also to understand the role of pain and suffering in the human experience and the opportunity that it presents.

Establishing Ground Rules

1. The problem of evil

"The source of evil is not God's power but man's freedom." – Peter Kreft

Three sources of our suffering:

A. _____ of our own behavior

Pain is an indication that there is a _____

B. Consequences of _____

Sometimes there are tragedies that defy logic.

Matthew 5:45 says, "[God] gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike." Can you give an example of an instance where the good and bad both suffer?

C. Our distorted and flawed view of what is good

"Human beings are terrible at predicting what makes us happy."



2. The Purpose of Human Suffering

Evil and man's free will afford God the opportunity to demonstrate His love, grace and mercy. Even though there are consequences to our own poor choices, God doesn't give us what we deserve. We get grace and mercy in place of punishment and condemnation.

3. What Suffering says about God

God is more concerned with our character than our comfort.

Straight from the Rulebook – write out these verses for your own reference

Romans 2:15

Matthew 5:45

Romans 8:28

James 1:2-4

Isaiah 61:3

Post-Game Analysis

1. Pain is an indication of a problem

2. God doesn't waste pain

Suffering is so central to the human experience that he sent His Only Son to suffer and die for our benefit. God redeems our pain and assigns purpose to it.

3. This life isn't about this life

One of the reasons that God doesn't view pain and suffering in the same way that we do is because He wrote the ending to the book. A day is coming when suffering will cease and God will judge evil.