



Going through hardship and difficulty can often be some of the most confusing and disorienting times in the Christian life. That is often because people face those times with more questions than they do answers.

🗨️ What are some of the questions people have when they suffer?

God's word doesn't answer *all* of our questions about suffering, but it doesn't leave us confused or disoriented either. **Today's lesson will look at what God's word tells us we can know about suffering so that we can trust Him in the things we don't know.**

WHAT IS SUFFERING AND WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

✍️ Suffering is a catch-all description for the hardships and difficulties that are a reality in our broken world. According to James 1:2, we face "trials of _____ forms." This includes one-time catastrophes and long-term difficulties as well as the everyday inconveniences of ordinary life. (See also 2 Cor. 4:9-10) **What are some of the various kinds of suffering you are facing right now?**

🔍 Suffering came into our world as a result of man's sin. It isn't a part of God's original design. Read Genesis 1:31. After creating the world, God said everything was "_____."

But, when Adam and Eve (the first humans) turned away from God to sin, suffering (specifically death, but also its accompanying pain and difficulty) came into the world. Romans 5:12 says that as a result of "one man's _____" that suffering spread to "_____ men."

WHO FACES SUFFERING?

♥️ Part of what confuses us in suffering is that it is often so unexpected. Read 1 Peter 4:12. What does Peter say we should NOT be when we face suffering? _____.

✍️ Think about some reasons that people can be surprised by suffering or think it is strange. Write some of them below.

WHEN WILL WE FACE SUFFERING?

📖 In John 16:33, Jesus said "In the world you will have _____. But take heart; I have overcome the world." Suffering will be a part of our earthly home, but Christians can take heart, because it will not be a part of their heavenly home.

Suffering has an end date! Read Revelation 21:3-4. One day, when Christians are with God in heaven, all death and mourning and crying and pain will "be _____."

WHY DO WE SUFFER?

👁️ In order to answer the why question in suffering, we have to look with the eyes of faith. When we look at suffering through human eyes, we feel alone or abandoned. But, through the eyes of faith and the lens of God's word, we see that we are not alone.


According to Isaiah 41:10 and 43:2, God is "_____ _____" in your suffering. In fact, 1 Peter 3:18 also tells us that God the Son, Jesus "_____ _____" for us.


📖 The Bible doesn't often give specific answers to our why questions. Instead, it tells us how God uses suffering. **Choose 3 of the following passages and write what they show about how God uses suffering in your life.** *Psalms 119:67-68, 2 Corinthians 1:4-5, 4:17-18, 12:7-10, Hebrews 12:10-11, James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 1:6-7*



☁ What are some of the questions people have when they suffer?

WHAT IS SUFFERING AND WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

 Suffering is a catch-all description for the hardships and difficulties that are a reality in our broken world. According to James 1:2, we face “trials of _____ kinds.” This includes one-time catastrophes and long-term difficulties as well as the everyday inconveniences of ordinary life. (See also 2 Cor. 4:9-10)

 Suffering came into our world as a result of man’s sin. It isn’t a part of God’s original design. Read Genesis 1:31. After creating the world, God said everything was “_____.”


But, when Adam and Eve (the first humans) turned away from God to sin, suffering (specifically death, but also its accompanying pain and difficulty) came into the world. Romans 5:12 says that as a result of “one man’s _____” that suffering spread to “_____ men.”

WHO FACES SUFFERING?

 Read 1 Peter 4:12. What does Peter say we should NOT be when we face suffering? _____. God’s word is clear: everyone suffers.


 What are some reasons that people can be surprised by suffering or think it is strange? Write them below. Circle the ones you have felt.

WHEN WILL WE FACE SUFFERING?

 In John 16:33, Jesus said “In the world you will have _____. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” Suffering will be a part of our earthly home, but Christians can take heart, because it will not be a part of their heavenly home.


Suffering has an end date! Read Revelation 21:3-4. One day, when Christians are with God in heaven, all death and mourning and crying and pain will “be _____.”

WHO (ELSE) IS THERE IN SUFFERING?

 According to Isaiah 41:10 and 43:2, God is “_____” in your suffering.

In fact, 1 Peter 3:18 also tells us that God the Son, Jesus “_____” for us to bring us to God.

WHY DO WE SUFFER?

 The Bible doesn’t often give specific answers to our why questions. Instead, it focuses on how God _____ suffering. (See Psalm 119:67, 2 Corinthians 1:4, 4:17–18, 12:7-9, Hebrews 12:10-11, James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 1:6-7)

HOW SHOULD WE SUFFER?

“For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.” (1 Pet. 2:21-23)

 _____ that God is doing good work. He doesn’t waste suffering.

Grow in using our _____ eyes through Bible reading and study.

Be quick to _____ from God and others.