



TALK IT OVER

Why Do We Suffer?

BOTTOM LINE

Pain can have purpose.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Who tolerates pain best and least in your family? Would you rather have an abscessed tooth and root canal or a broken thumb? Why? What's the worst physical pain you experienced before age 21?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/daily
- [Why Do We Suffer?](#) with Joni Eareckson Tada

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this has happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."
John 9:3 NIV

"One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" John 9:25 NIV

Suffering can be caused by personal choices, family sin, a fallen world, demonic attack, victimization by someone else's sin, and sometimes it's a mystery. But Jesus gives us a new category. Sometimes pain has a divine purpose—that the power of God can be displayed. Pain is a great motivator to change. Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make me change my ways. I don't change when I see the light. I change when I feel the heat.

The Pharisees were unable to distinguish between their rules and God's laws. This is how you become religious, and religious people are angry people because they can't control others.

Because of what God has done for us, we should be the most accommodating, accepting people on planet earth.

TALK IT OVER

What do you tend to think is the reason when you suffer? What do you think when others suffer? How have you experienced suffering from living right, not doing something wrong? Can you give an example of someone's suffering that you know was used to display God's works? How do you feel about God choosing pain as a platform in your life? Have you had a time when your pain led you to repent and change your ways? How did it happen? When suffering comes, your witness is at stake...how? How can being honest about your struggles honor God?

ACTION STEPS (This or one of your own)

I will allow my pain to have purpose and display God's works in me. I will use my pain for ministry and help for others.

My Action Step: _____