



## TALK IT OVER

THE ILLUSION: GOD, DO YOU CARE?

### BOTTOM LINE

God intends suffering to draw you closer to Him; Satan intends it to draw you away from God.

### CONVERSATION STARTER

Would you rather have a headache, a toothache, or a backache for three solid days? Why? Which have you experienced most?

### THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

### RESOURCES

The Daily: [newpointe.org/thedaily](http://newpointe.org/thedaily)

[Emotions in the Face of Suffering](#)  
by Joni Eareckson Tada

### KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

*Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.* 1 Peter 5:7-9 NLT

The unrelenting blows of suffering can twist our hearts away from God. Satan has purposes for your life. The devil is prowling around those who are suffering. Like a wolf stalking a wounded animal, when we suffer the Enemy smells blood. God intends for us to behave differently in our suffering to complement the Creator. The Enemy intends for us to complain about our Creator.

You can't escape the reality that Jesus and the Scripture teach that suffering is not a unique experience. It's not a strange experience. It's not a surprising experience. It's not an episodic experience. Suffering is a universal human experience.

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What evidence do you see that "the world is groaning, waiting for redemption"? (Romans 8:22).

Good theology says we suffer because we live in a fallen world. Our own choices can cause suffering. God uses your suffering to strengthen YOU. How can this impact your perspective on your personal situation? (Romans 5:3-5).

When we suffer, God has not abandoned us. God is helping us learn obedience. **God is stripping away all that would compete with our affection and allegiance to the supreme treasure of our souls.** God's concern and care in our suffering is cemented in the reality that He's already given us His Son. Reflect and discuss.

### ACTION STEPS (This or one of your own.)

I will choose good theology and quit expecting a pain-free life. I will memorize John 16:33.

My Action Step: \_\_\_\_\_  
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