

3

BROKENHEARTED

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL?

OBJECTIVE

To introduce the idea of redemptive suffering and offer a lens through which you can view and better understand suffering in your lives and the world.

DID YOU KNOW?

Moral Evil results from the free choice to sin which angels and men have; it is permitted by God, who knows how to derive good from it, in order to respect the freedom of his creatures.

While God allows evil to exist he is never the direct or indirect cause of evil.

**CCC stands for the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Catechism means teaching. You can access the CCC for free online by searching "CCC" and the paragraph number. The website is <https://scborromeo2.org/catechism-of-the-catholic-church>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Always begin in prayer.

God, I still have so much to learn about you, myself, my world. I know I don't say it enough, but "thank you" for all that you've done in my life so far and for all that I get to have and experience because of you. Even though at times it feels like you are very distant, and I question why you would allow bad things to happen, I'm sure you are working in ways that I do not always see or understand. So, please help me to be more aware of the good things you are doing and how I fit into your eternal "story" here and now. Amen

TURN IN YOUR MAKE UP LESSON

Please turn this make up lesson into your small group leader and Julie Sokolowski by emailing to julie.sokolowski@sacredheartwdm.org

LESSON



WATCH THE VIDEO [“BELIEVING IN A GOD WHO ALLOWS EVIL”](#) THEN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ON PAGE 2



WATCH THE VIDEO [“THE REAL ANSWER TO WHY GOD ALLOWS SUFFERING”](#) THEN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ON PAGE 3



WATCH [“WHY DO WE OFFER UP SUFFERING?”](#) THEN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ON PAGE 3



READ THIS ARTICLE [“WHY DID CHRIST HAVE TO SUFFER? WHY DO WE SUFFER?”](#) BY ARCHBISHOP LUCAS



WATCH [“SAINTS WHO SUFFERED AND WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THEM”](#) BY JON LIONETTI

3

BROKENHEARTED

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL?

1. Do most people turn to God when things in their life are going well or when they are falling apart? Why do you think that is?

WATCH VIDEO #1 AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

2. If you could ask God one question about suffering, what would it be?

3. How does the reality of suffering in your life or in the world around you affect how you view God?

4. What does Father Mike say is God's reason for allowing our broken world to remain broken?

5. Jesus experienced every human emotion including suffering, while he lived on earth. Do you find comfort in this reality? How?

CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE

3

BROKENHEARTED

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL?

WATCH VIDEO #2 AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

6. How can Christianity offer peace in the midst of suffering?

7. Who in your life have you witnessed suffering well? What do you admire about the way they handled suffering?

WATCH VIDEO #3 AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

8. What are some ways you have experienced suffering?

9. How can you “offer up” the suffering you experience?

10. What are some ways you can impact the suffering of others?

CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE

3

BROKENHEARTED

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL?

WATCH VIDEO #4 AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

11. Jon Lionetti gave several examples of Saints who suffered. Which Saint did you find most inspiring and why?

12. In today's secular culture, Catholics find themselves battling other people and going against the crowd on many issues. What do Saints like St. Theresa of Avila, who went against the crowd teach us?

13. The Saints did not see suffering as obstacles. The Saints saw suffering as an opportunity for holiness. Have you experienced suffering as an obstacle or an opportunity?

14. How will what you have learned in this Confirmation session change how you face suffering in the future?

CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE

3

BROKENHEARTED

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL?

REDEMPTIVE SUFFERING

God did not create people to suffer. When our first parents (Adam & Eve) sinned (Genesis 2), they introduced suffering into their lives and the lives of others. We do the same when we sin. The good news is that by his passion and death on the cross, Jesus showed that suffering can lead to new and eternal life for us and for others. In other words, suffering can be redemptive (it can redeem us).

Just as Jesus suffered for us, he invites us to offer our sufferings back to him, to bring life back to ourselves and to others. This is how he intends for us to participate in the Salvation (saving act) that he accomplished on the Cross. Many of the Saints took him up on his invitation. When we accept suffering without complaint, we participate in Jesus' saving work. Praying in front of a crucifix or placing a crucifix nearby can help us to keep our won suffering in perspective and remember how powerful suffering can be.

"...upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

"We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18)

"I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world." John 16:33

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses**, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." Hebrews 12:1 ** The author of Hebrews is referring to the Old Testament heroes and saints that are cheering us on.

This is what the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) says about suffering:

- **1504** Often Jesus asks the sick to believe.¹⁰⁸ He makes use of signs to heal: spittle and the laying on of hands,¹⁰⁹ mud and washing.¹¹⁰ The sick try to touch him, "for power came forth from him and healed them all."¹¹¹ And so in the sacraments Christ continues to "touch" us in order to heal us.
- **1505** Moved by so much suffering Christ not only allows himself to be touched by the sick, but he makes their miseries his own: "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."¹¹² But he did not heal all the sick. His healings were signs of the coming of the Kingdom of God. They announced a more radical healing: the victory over sin and death through his Passover. On the

3

BROKENHEARTED

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL?

cross Christ took upon himself the whole weight of evil and took away the "sin of the world,"¹¹³ of which illness is only a consequence. By his passion and death on the cross Christ has given a new meaning to suffering: it can henceforth configure us to him and unite us with his redemptive Passion.

- **1506** Christ invites his disciples to follow him by taking up their cross in their turn..¹¹⁴ By following him they acquire a new outlook on illness and the sick. Jesus associates them with his own life of poverty and service. He makes them share in his ministry of compassion and healing: "So they went out and preached that men should repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them."¹¹⁵
- **1500** Illness and suffering have always been among the gravest problems confronted in human life. In illness, man experiences his powerlessness, his limitations, and his finitude. Every illness can make us glimpse death.
- **1501** Illness can lead to anguish, self-absorption, sometimes even despair and revolt against God. It can also make a person more mature, helping him discern in his life what is not essential so that he can turn toward that which is. Very often illness provokes a search for God and a return to him.

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the biggest take away your teen had from Fr. Mike's video "*Believing in a God Who Allows Evil*"?
2. Why do you think God allows evil?
3. What is the biggest take away your teen had from Fr. Mike's video "*The real answer to why God Allows Suffering*"?
4. How should we respond to suffering?
5. Which of the Saints who suffered inspired your teen?

Please turn this make up lesson into your small group leader and Julie Sokolowski by emailing to julie.sokolowski@sacredheartwdm.org

3

BROKENHEARTED

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL?

LITANY OF SAINTS

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Holy Mary, Mother of God, **pray for us.**

Saint Joseph, Protector of the Church, **pray for us.**

Saint Michael, **pray for us.**

Saint Gabriel, **pray for us.**

Saint Raphael, **pray for us.**

All you holy angels and archangels, **pray for us.**

Saint John the Baptist, **pray for us.**

Saint Peter, **pray for us.**

Saint Paul, **pray for us.**

Saint Andrew, **pray for us.**

Saint James, **pray for us.**

Saint John, **pray for us.**

All you holy apostles and evangelists, **pray for us.**

All you holy martyrs, **pray for us.**

Saint Stephen, **pray for us.**

Saint Lawrence, **pray for us.**

Saint Gregory, **pray for us.**

Saint Ambrose, **pray for us.**

Saint Augustine, **pray for us.**

Saint Nicholas, **pray for us.**

Saint Benedict, **pray for us.**

Saint Bernard, **pray for us.**

Saint Dominic, **pray for us.**

Saint Francis, **pray for us.**

All you holy priests and clergy, **pray for us.**

All you holy monks and hermits, **pray for us.**

Saint Mary Magdalene, **pray for us.**

Saint Agatha, **pray for us.**

Saint Lucy, **pray for us.**

Saint Agnes, **pray for us.**

Saint Cecilia, **pray for us.**

Saint Catherine, **pray for us.**

Saint Anastasia, **pray for us.**

3

BROKENHEARTED

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL?

Saint Clare, **pray for us.**

All you holy virgins and widows, **pray for us.**

Saint Fabian and Saint Sebastian, **pray for us.**

Saint Gervase and Saint Protase, **pray for us.**

Saint Rosalie, **pray for us.**

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, **pray for us.**

Saint Charles Borromeo, **pray for us.**

Saint Damian of Molokai, **pray for us.**

Blessed Solanus Casey, **pray for us.**

Blessed James Miller, **pray for us.**

Blessed Stanley Rother, **pray for us.**

All you holy saints of God, **pray for us.**

Lord, be merciful. **Lord, deliver us, we pray.**

From every evil, **Lord, deliver us, we pray.**

From every sin, **Lord, deliver us, we pray.**

From the snares of the devil, **Lord, deliver us, we pray.**

From disease, famine, and war, **Lord, deliver us, we pray.**

By your Incarnation, **Lord, deliver us, we pray.**

By your death and resurrection, **Lord, deliver us, we pray.**

By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, **Lord, deliver us, we pray.**

Be merciful to us sinners, **Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

Guide and protect your holy Church, **Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

That you are continually taking care of me, **Jesus, I trust in you.**

That not knowing the future invites me to lean on you, **Jesus, I trust in you.**

That you are with me in my suffering, **Jesus, I trust in you.**

That my suffering, united to your own, will bear fruit in this life and the next,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That you give me all the strength I need for what is asked, **Jesus, I trust in you.**

That my life is a gift, **Jesus, I trust in you.**

That you are my Lord and my God, **Jesus, I trust in you.**

That I am your beloved one, **Jesus, I trust in you.**

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, **spare us, Lord.**

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, **graciously hear us.**

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, **have mercy on us.**

Christ, hear us. **Christ, hear us.**

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer. **Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

3

BROKENHEARTED

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL?

3

BROKENHEARTED

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL?

Saint Rosalie, **pray for us.**

3

BROKENHEARTED

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL?