

Y7.3 WISDOM: What do we do when life gets hard?

Job's story

A) A person who is innocent of major evil loses everything in disasters. Will he curse God, or not?

B) He loses his health, and even his wife suggests he blame God.

C) Job's three friends sit with him, and after seven days they speak up to comfort him.

D) Job argues with his friends and with God.

E) At last, God appears and speaks to Job. But the answer is not an argument that justifies God or solves the 'problem of evil'. It is an overwhelming encounter with God, which leaves Job nearly speechless.



Atheist Viewpoint:

'Innocent suffering means there cannot be a God'

Bethany Hamilton

Lost her left arm to a shark attack at the age of 13, but through courage, perseverance and a strong faith has nonetheless still become one of the world's greatest professional surfers.

Nick Vujicic

Born with no arms and no legs, he has overcome life's challenges through strength and hope found in Jesus Christ.



Christian explanations for suffering

- Satan's to blame
- God deliberately planned the world like it is. Suffering leads to goodness.
- The alternative to faith in God would be that life is pointless
- Perhaps some sufferings in this life will be replaced by love, peace and joy in heaven.
- It's not God's fault – it's our fault!
- There is a kind of suffering that actually helps others.
- Human freedom leads to suffering.
- God suffers with us.
- I can't answer the question 'Why does God allow suffering? What I can do as a Christian is try to ease suffering.'