

WHY DOES A GOOD GOD ALLOW EVIL AND SUFFERING?

Gary Fredricks

Your Own Stories of Asking “WHY?”

Answers You’ve Heard...or given

INSIGHTS FROM THE BOOK OF JOB

What do we learn about Job from chapters 1 & 2?

What can we learn from Job’s friends’ response in 2:11-13 about dealing with those who are suffering?

Basic reasoning of Job’s friends:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Job’s response

1. To his friends (6:24)
2. To God (6:4; 7:11-16; 9:14-22; 13:18-28; 23:1-17)

What can we learn from Job's friends' responses in these chapters about responding to the tragedies that fall upon others?

Newman writes that the Bible gives us "slivers" of the pie chart of reasons why God allows evil and suffering in the world. What are some of those "slivers"?

Answering with a Different Question

"I wish we knew."

"Can you tell me what you're feeling right now?"

And for those who are "attacking" you might ask:

*"So what is your explanation? How do you explain the Holocaust, AIDS, or 9/11?"

Transitioning to the gospel

*"There are some things I *do* know about God and life that help me at times like these. Would you be interested in hearing them?"

*"I don't know why God allows evil things to happen, but I'm glad that He did allowed one evil thing to happen—He allowed Jesus to die on the cross. That was, from the human perspective, an evil thing...."

CONCLUSION

There are no easy answers to why God allows evil and suffering. Good theology, or thinking biblically about God, is important but when people are in pain, either emotionally or physically, we need great wisdom about how we respond.