



ARGUING WITH GOD

Part 6: The Problem of Pain

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The Argument

God, you could end pain. Why don't you?

The Truth About Pain

Pain was not a part of God's original design (*Genesis 1-2*)

Pain is expected (*John 16:33 and James 1:2*)

Followers of Jesus are not immune to pain (*2 Corinthians 12:8-10, Isaiah 53*)

The Origins of Pain

Some of the pain I endure is because of my own sinful decisions
(*Galatians 6:7-8*)

Some of the pain I endure is the result direct sin against me
(*Genesis 37:18-20*)

Some of the pain I endure is the result of indirect sin in our world
(*Genesis 6:5*)

Some of the pain I endure is because I live in a world broken by sin
(*Genesis 3 and Romans 8:22-23*)

Some of the pain I endure is the result of Satan's destructive plan for those
who love God (*John 10:10 and Ephesians 2:1-2*)

Where is God in my pain?

Here with me (*Psalms 23 and Deuteronomy 8:15-16*)

What's good about pain?

Pain draws me closer to God (*John 9:1-38*)

Pain deepens my faith (*1 Peter 5:8-10 and Romans 5:3-4*)

Pain reveals my true character (*Job 23:10 and Psalm 139:23-24*)

Pain refines me (*Hebrews 5:8, 1 Peter 1:7*)

Pain softens my heart towards others who are hurting (*2 Corinthians 1:3-5*)

Why doesn't God just make pain stop?

Just because it hasn't happened yet, doesn't mean it won't.

(*Proverbs 24:20 and Revelation 21:1-4*)

You (*2 Peter 3:9*)

Small Group Questions

- 1) Tell us your wisdom teeth story. If you don't have one, just smile and nod!
- 2) What kind of pain are you experiencing right now? What part is God playing in your pain?
- 3) What is good about pain? How have you learned this?
- 4) How would you answer someone who asked, "How can you believe in God when there is so much pain in the world?"
- 5) What has pain taught you about Jesus?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now?