

3. SUFFERING IN THE WORLD

Today's Verses:

Psalm 56:8
Romans 8:19
Genesis 3:16-19

Luke 13:1-5
Psalm 130:3
Acts 2:44-45

Psalm 56:8
John 9:2-3
John 19:30

PUMPKIN KILLING

Mark Your Calendars: October 28th at 1pm
Orcutt Hill/Newlove Picnic Grounds

www.ourelement.org/reasonforgod

INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER 2:

Keller quotes Philosopher J.L. Mackie who said, *"If a good and powerful God exists, he would not allow pointless evil, but because there is much unjustifiable, pointless evil in the world, the traditional good and powerful God could not exist. Some other god or no god may exist, but not the traditional God."* By "traditional God" he means the God that we proclaim on a given Sunday. The argument of Mackie is a false one. Just because *we* can't see a reason in human suffering at times doesn't mean that there isn't one!

DISCUSSION

If you could ask God one question right now, what would it be?
What do you hope the answer is?

EXPLANATION – READ LUKE 13:1-5

Ask Jesus' question. "Do disasters happen because some people are more sinful than others?"

Why does Jesus call us to repent and leave our sin?

APPLICATION

How could suffering be a consequence for sin and not a punishment for sin?

How would you define the difference for someone in the midst of a struggle?

Have you ever cried out to God because of an injustice or pain?

What did you say or feel and what happened while crying out?

MISSION

How does intrinsically knowing suffering isn't right actually point to God being real and true?

What is the ultimate example of God taking evil and using it for good?

How can this be a place to talk to others about suffering?

HOMEWORK

Read Chapter 3 in the Reason for God