

RESTORATION

How Can a Good God Exist When There Is Evil and Suffering?

Dear Parents and Family,

This week at Edge, your son or daughter began by playing a game where their group had to cross from one side of the room to the other, overcoming obstacles and various ailments. The teaching unpacked the different types of evil in our world. It also discussed that God does not will or cause evil or suffering but allows it because of our free will and can bring good from it. After the youth had an opportunity to look at suffering in their lives, they reflected on and prayed about the Resurrection and the hope we have as Christians that God overcomes all evil and suffering. The Edge Night concluded with the Glory Be prayer. Your child's weekly challenge is to ask a friend if there is any suffering that he or she is experiencing and to pray for that friend's situation.

Check out our Parent Life website at ltparentlife.com for resources on how to guide your teen in a faith-filled way through modern day culture!

Main Ideas

- There is a difference between natural evil and suffering and evil and suffering that is caused by sin.
- God gave us free will. When we turn from God and abuse that free will, sin enters the world and with it comes certain evil and suffering.
- Suffering can be a mystery that is hard to understand, but God does not abandon us. Through Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection, we can find hope and new life.

Catechism Reference

"God is infinitely good and all His works are good. ...Where does evil come from? 'I sought whence evil comes and there was no solution', said St. Augustine, and his own painful quest would only be resolved by his conversion to the living God. For 'the mystery of lawlessness' is clarified only in the light of the 'mystery of our religion'. The revelation of divine love in Christ manifested at the same time the extent of evil and the superabundance of grace. We must therefore approach the question of the origin of evil by fixing the eyes of our faith on Him who alone is its conqueror" (CCC 385).

Scripture Reference

"For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word; but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ" (2 Corinthians 2:17).

Family Reflection Questions

- What was your favorite part of the Edge Night?
- What did you learn about how God works in the midst of evil and suffering?
- Is there any suffering you are currently experiencing that we can work through together?