

When people suffer, we want to look for a reason.

How should we interpret suffering? (Read **Luke 13:2-5** again)

– our own?

– other people's?

Go back and assess the different explanations for suffering we discussed at the beginning of this study, according to the Bible.

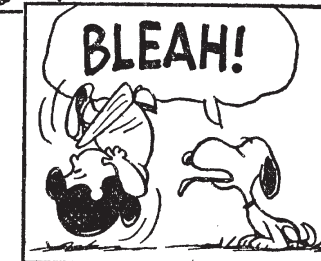
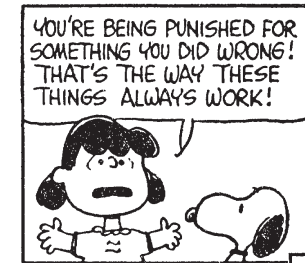
Discuss

How do you think all of these things can be true?

- God is absolutely in control
- God is absolutely good
- The world is full of suffering

Pray for some people going through suffering right now.

Next week: Suffering for Christians...



suffering

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Suffering and sin

Many of the questions we have about suffering are to do with “WHY”.

Why do innocent people suffer?

Why do some people suffer more than others?

Why does God allow tragedies to happen?

Discuss

When something bad happens to you or someone else, how do you explain it?

- There is no explanation; suffering is completely random, with no reason or meaning.
- It's karma; they must have done something bad in the past to deserve this.
- God must be punishing them.
- It is an attack of the devil / evil spirits.
- It's just an illusion; our own attachment to desires/expectations is to blame for our suffering.
- It is God's will; we must simply submit and not question it.
- God was powerless to prevent this suffering.
- If they had more faith they wouldn't suffer.
- Other...?

Last week we looked at the big picture of suffering in the Bible. The suffering of the human race is because of our rebellion against God: we live in a world that is cursed by God because of our sin.

This week we'll take a closer look at the question: is there any connection between specific sins and suffering?

	Cause/purpose for suffering	Is the suffering linked to a specific sin?	What part does God play?
Job 1:1-2:10			
Luke 13:1-5			
John 9:1-3			
Acts 5:1-11			
Acts 12:19-23			
1 Corinthians 11:27-32			
2 Corinthians 12:7-10			