



# Catholic Central Activity Guide

## Problem of Evil

### Diving Deeper

- ▶ The Problem of Evil is not just a challenge for Christians – it is hard for all of humanity. How do people answer the question: “Why do bad things happen to good people?” Where do you look for answers for this difficult question?
- ▶ When is a time that you have experienced new life as the result of suffering? A core belief of Catholicism is that through the crosses in our lives, we experience the joys of the Resurrection. Where have you seen this?
- ▶ Kai and Libby said that, “Our Catholic worldview puts life on earth in a larger context.” What does this mean to you? How would you define your “worldview”? Catholics would say that placing hope in Christ and what He reveals about humanity changes how suffering is viewed. How would this affect someone’s worldview?

### Go Forth

- ▶ The news is full of stories of misfortune, suffering and tragedy. Find a news story about a community undergoing struggle. How is the community responding? How do individuals and groups respond to the event? Are there signs of people growing closer?

#### Activity for Large Groups (10+)

- ▶ Read Matthew 25:40. Catholics believe that the suffering of others is a call for the community to respond with help and support. How have you or your community responded when you have heard about others in crisis? Pick a situation from the world today and think of an appropriate response from a Catholic perspective.

#### Activity for Small Groups (4-9)

- ▶ Read the story of the Agony in the Garden (Matthew 26:36-46). Imagine that you are one of the disciples accompanying Jesus. Discuss the emotions and suffering that he is experiencing, and what you, as an onlooker, are experiencing. Why would God allow this innocent person to suffer? Take some time to name people you know are suffering. It can be someone you know personally or have heard about in the news. Pray one decade of the Rosary for these intentions. Have the leader re-read the Gospel passage, name the mystery, lead with the Our Father and then have each person in your group name someone, then pray one Hail Mary. Discuss what it means to have God as Father and to pray together.





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### Get More

- ▶ [Peter Kreeft and the Problem of Evil](#)
- ▶ [The Catechism of the Catholic Church: 309-314](#)
- ▶ ["The Cross, Our Only Hope"](#) from the Founding Documents of the Congregation of Holy Cross
- ▶ [Father James Martin, S.J.](#), questions why a good God lets bad things happen, in light of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, on December 14, 2012.
- ▶ [Why Does God Let Bad Things Happen?](#) Fr. Mike Schmitz

