

the  Venues
Go Deep

The Change Will Do You Good
What is God's Role in Suffering?

1.26.20

What answers have you heard for why God causes or allows evil? What do you think of them?

What experiences of suffering have shaped your view of God?

Do you see any difference between God allowing suffering and God causing suffering?

Are you comforted or bothered by the view that God controls/causes everything?

Read Isaiah 45:7. *What does this verse tell us about how people understood God? Is that how you understand God?*

What do these verses show us about God and God's control?

Exodus 32:9-12; 32:14

Genesis 22:12

Isaiah 5:4

In what way is love contradictory with control?

If God loves us, does God control us?

What do you think about the statement, "God can't control"?

During the Holocaust, Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "Only a suffering God can help us now."

How is God a suffering God? How does that help?

How did God transform suffering?

Read Romans 8:28. Some Greek scholars say the best translation is: "We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose."

How does God work with us to stop evil in our world?