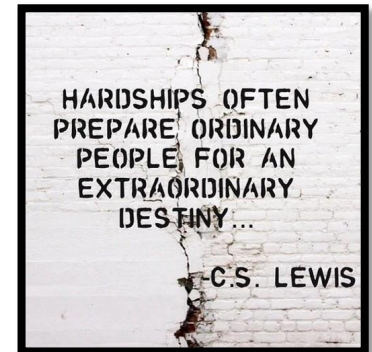


Jesus often addressed our basic needs before he "evangelized" us.

The Answer to Suffering Simplified!

Christianity is stupid! Every educated person knows that either God can't exist at all because of suffering, or else he isn't all knowing, good, and powerful!

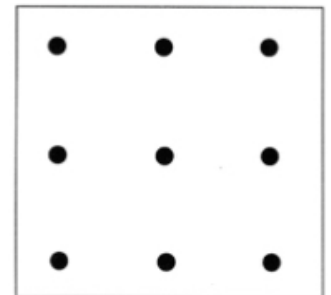
RESPONSE: If God is not all knowing/good/powerful, then he still exists! But, "can't" is a strong word. Can't means *impossible*. But, if something is *possible*, it is not impossible. Agreed? Now, it is *possible* that God CAN'T create a world where free creatures always choose to do good because they just won't! And, it's at least possible angelic creatures cause natural evils. Also, because God can use evil to bring about his good will and it is better to create us than not to, he allows evil to exist. But, because he allowed evil, he took responsibility for evil by suffering himself, for us, on the cross.



Well, maybe it is just appears unlikely God exists if there is suffering!

RESPONSE: Just because suffering *looks* unjustified doesn't mean it *is* unjustified. If there is any good evidence for God's existence then it is extremely **LIKELY** that you are wrong. Also, there may be great goods (heaven, Christ's death) that justify suffering and make God's existence very likely given suffering. But, even if all arguments for God and justifications don't convince, how do you know it is unlikely? On what basis? Show me how!

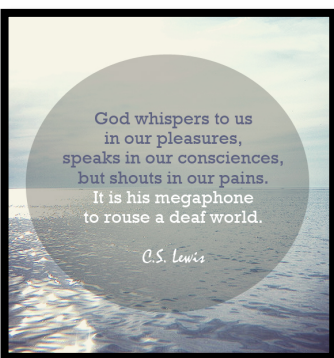
The Dot Puzzle: what appears impossible is possible



Draw 4 lines without lifting your pen, connecting all the dots.

What about suffering that comes from hurricanes, floods, etc?!

RESPONSE: Because God already knew he put us in a world where human suffering was going to occur, natural disasters are still our fault. Just as Christ's death covers sins for all time, our sin corrupts the world for all time (Rom. 5:12). But, is not unlikely that God could allow natural disasters for some unforeseen good.



Look, maybe I'm just upset at God for the evils he's allowed in my life.

RESPONSE: God wants to help you in your suffering but realize that you can't both be angry and disappointed in God and believe he doesn't exist at once.

Fine, maybe my arguments aren't that good, and I'm just mad at God, but why do you think God allows suffering?

Christianity makes better sense of suffering than other views: (1) point of life is not happiness (knowledge of God = purpose), suffering pushes us toward God if we respond correctly, (2) sin explains a rebellious world, (3) suffering prepares us for eternity with God, (4) knowledge of God is a good that nothing can compare to.

Answers to the 9-Dot Puzzle

4 Line Solution



Lesson: Appearances can be deceiving. Just because it appears that there is no justification for suffering(s) in the world does not mean there is no justification.

3 Line Solution!

