

SESSION 6
BROKENHEARTED
Parent Letter



CONTENT OVERVIEW

Oftentimes, the daily news can be frustrating, overwhelming, and heartbreaking. Whether we receive it from a news station, online, or via social media, it seems like we are constantly inundated with bad news, so much so that we are somewhat numb and immune to it. From a natural disaster that has destroyed an entire community to another shooting at a school, an outbreak of a disease to a fatal car accident caused by someone who was under the influence of drugs or alcohol, we see evil and suffering in our world. And, because of this, many people have questioned their faith and God's role in allowing the existence of evil.

As we have discussed over the past couple of weeks, we are all called to be in relationship with God. This relationship allows us to know God more fully, to recognize His goodness and live for Him each day. When this happens, we begin to trust God with our lives and through all circumstances. Even though we have faith, the question of evil and suffering can be challenging since there is no simple answer. Evil exists in our world. We believe that there are two types of evil, natural evil and moral evil. Natural evil always causes suffering, but there is no rational explanation as to why it happens (e.g., disease, illness, natural disasters). Moral evil, on the other hand, is a choice. God is not the cause of moral evil, as we are each given free will. Using our free will to make choices that are not of God leads to the existence of moral evil in the world.

We also believe that God does not enact evil. For example, if you have missed Mass for three weeks in a row, God does not bring punishment upon you. God is all-loving and all-forgiving. God is the ultimate source of goodness, kindness, mercy, and love, so He never brings evil upon His people. While God is never the source of evil, God can bring good out of evil. God is good and always wills good for us. As the Bible confirms, "we know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. Has there been a time when you or someone you know experienced suffering? What was that experience like?
2. Why does God allow suffering and evil to exist in the world?
3. How can you grow in faith in the midst of suffering?

