



# Sin and Suffering

Family Discussion

Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked, “Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?” Jesus said, “You’re asking the wrong question. You’re looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do.

John 9:1-3 (MSG)



## Discuss

- Why do you think the disciples assumed the blind man's condition was caused by sin?
- How can we balance the truth that sin can have consequences with the reality that not all suffering is a result of sin?
- Jesus rejected the idea that sin caused the blindness. He stated that no matter what caused the blindness, it was an opportunity for God's power and love to accomplish a greater purpose. How have you seen that happen in your own life or someone you know of?
- In what ways can suffering lead people closer to God rather than away from Him?



# Prayer

- Thank God for His healing power at work in the lives of your family. Thank Him also for skillful healthcare workers whom He uses.
- Pray for people who are suffering illness, tragedy, or other calamity in their lives. Pray that God's healing power will be at work in their lives.
- Pray that, despite their suffering, they will draw closer to God.
- Ask God to give you wisdom and courage to make right choices so that you will avoid possible health or lifechanging consequences.

