

OPEN-BOOK REVIEW

ThinkCube 3: God Can Redeem Suffering

Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Read ThinkCube 3, “God’s Promise and Privilege for His Own People.” Use the article and Scripture references to answer the questions. Circle the best answer and complete the written reflections. This is a learning exercise, not a closed-book test.

Premise 1 — Naturalism Offers No Ultimate Hope in Suffering

1. According to the article, what is the central limitation of a purely naturalistic view of suffering?

- A. It denies that physical pain exists.
- B. It offers no ultimate cosmic purpose or final restoration for suffering.
- C. It teaches that all suffering is caused by individuals.
- D. It promises that science will eliminate all suffering.

2. What contrast does the article draw between naturalism and Christianity?

- A. Both promise eternal restoration.
- B. Christianity treats suffering as imaginary.
- C. Naturalism sees an ultimately indifferent universe; Christianity offers redemption and hope.
- D. Naturalism says every tragedy is morally deserved.

3. Which statement best summarizes the Christian response to suffering?

- A. Suffering is always pleasant.
- B. Every tragedy has an immediately obvious explanation.
- C. Suffering is real, but God can give it purpose and ultimately overcome it.
- D. Believers will never suffer.

Premise 2 — God Does Not Minimize Suffering but Can Give It Purpose

4. Which biblical example illustrates God bringing good from human wrongdoing and hardship?

- A. Joseph and the preservation of many lives (Genesis 50:20).
- B. Cain’s jealousy of Abel.
- C. The building of the tower of Babel.
- D. The golden calf at Sinai.

5. Which is NOT among the purposes of suffering discussed in the article?

- A. Developing endurance and character.
- B. Exposing misplaced trust.
- C. Deepening reliance on God.
- D. Guaranteeing immediate wealth and comfort.

6. What does 2 Corinthians 12:9 emphasize?

- A. Strength is perfected in weakness through God's grace.
- B. All sickness disappears when one believes.
- C. Christians must avoid helping others.
- D. God cannot work through difficult circumstances.

OPEN-BOOK REVIEW — CONTINUED

Premise 3 — God Uses Suffering for Spiritual Growth

7. According to James 1:2–4, what can the testing of faith produce?

- A. A guarantee of a painless life.
- B. Perseverance and spiritual maturity.
- C. Freedom from every responsibility.
- D. Immediate answers to every question.

8. What does the article say trials can reveal about us?

- A. Whether our faith is genuine and what we ultimately treasure.
- B. Whether we will never face future hardship.
- C. Whether others are responsible for every problem.
- D. Whether wealth is the measure of faith.

9. Which biblical figure endured hardship that helped advance the gospel?

- A. Paul during imprisonment (Philippians 1:12–14).
- B. Pharaoh during the Exodus.
- C. Herod during Jesus' birth.
- D. The builders of Babel.

Premise 4 — God Offers Hope in the Midst of Suffering

10. What is the central contrast in 2 Corinthians 4:17–18?

- A. Temporary earthly affliction and eternal glory.
- B. Human achievement and political power.
- C. Material wealth and physical strength.
- D. Youth and old age.

11. According to Hebrews 12:2, what enabled Jesus to endure the cross?

- A. The absence of suffering.
- B. The joy set before Him.
- C. The approval of the crowd.
- D. A promise that He would not experience pain.

12. Which promise expresses the Christian's ultimate hope?

- A. No Christian will ever experience grief.
- B. Every painful event will be explained immediately.
- C. God will ultimately remove death, mourning, and pain (Revelation 21:4).
- D. Earthly life will continue indefinitely without change.

Be Prepared to Share — Written Reflections

13. In two or three sentences, explain how the Christian worldview offers a different perspective on suffering than naturalism.

14. Identify one way God can use trials to develop Christian character. Include a Scripture reference.

BE PREPARED TO SHARE

15. A friend says, "If God loved me, He would never let me suffer." Write a compassionate response using an idea from ThinkCube 3 and one Scripture reference.

16. Why is the promise of eternal life important to the Christian response to suffering?

17. Memory Verse: Choose one verse from the article (James 1:2–4; Romans 5:3–5; 2 Corinthians 4:17–18; Revelation 21:4). Write its reference and summarize its message in your own words.

Personal Takeaway

What is one truth from this ThinkCube that you want to remember when speaking with someone who is suffering?

ANSWER KEY & DISCUSSION GUIDE

Multiple Choice: 1. B 2. C 3. C 4. A 5. D 6. A

7. B 8. A 9. A 10. A 11. B 12. C

Suggested Responses for Written Reflections

13. Naturalism does not promise an ultimate purpose or final resolution to suffering. Christianity teaches that God can redeem hardship and promises lasting restoration through Christ.

14. Trials can develop perseverance, humility, compassion, and dependence on God (James 1:2–4; Romans 5:3–5; 2 Corinthians 12:9).

15. A compassionate response should first acknowledge real pain. Scripture does not promise believers a painless life, but it promises God's sustaining grace and future hope (2 Corinthians 12:9; Revelation 21:4).

16. Eternal life places temporary suffering within the larger promise of God's restoration, justice, and lasting fellowship with Him (2 Corinthians 4:17–18).

17. Answers vary. Look for an accurate summary of the chosen passage.

Core Truth to Remember

God does not promise His people a life without suffering. He promises His presence, the ability to work through suffering, and a future in which suffering will end.

Source reading: thinkcube.info/thinkcube-3-gods-promise-and-privilege-for-his-own-people/