

Chapter 9

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *What belief does the Book of Job question?*

The Book of Job questions the belief that God rewards us in this lifetime for the good we do and that he punishes us for the evil we commit.

2. *Does God want us to suffer?*

God does not want us to suffer, but suffering and sacrifice are a path toward redemption and salvation.

3. *What is the best evidence that suffering is not God's punishment for sin?*

Because Jesus—who never sinned—suffered, we can be confident that the suffering we experience in life is not a punishment from God.

4. *How was Saint Damien's suffering a sign of his love for the people of Kalaupapa and his commitment to Christ?*

Saint Damien risked his life to serve the people of Kalaupapa. He volunteered to move there, and as he helped the community, he contracted leprosy. He willingly gave his life so that the lives of the people there would be better.

5. *What did Saint Paul mean when he said, "For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10)?*

Saint Paul was saying that our weaknesses are what make us turn to God for help. Because our weaknesses make us turn to God, they can be considered our strengths.

6. *How does recalling the Paschal Mystery help us when we are suffering?*

Though the Paschal Mystery begins with Christ's Passion and death, it is important to remember that it ends with his Resurrection and Ascension. We can be confident that better days are ahead, because our story does not end in this lifetime. We can look forward to the joy and peace we will share with God in our heavenly home.

7. *What is one of the most important things we can do for someone who is suffering?*

We can just be there and listen to them and let them talk about their pain without trying to fix their problems. If they do not want to talk, we can offer to do something with them. If they want to be alone, we should not take it personally. We can be patient, wait a while, and ask again.

8. *What does it mean to offer up our suffering to God?*

Offering up our suffering to God is a way for us to look at our struggles differently and use our suffering as a prayer. Offering our burdens up to God can help us train in selflessness and remind us of Christ's work of salvation.

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