

Parents:

In this time of stress and anxiety, children are either confronting death and suffering for the first time or seeing death and suffering extended to a global level. They may be questioning why God would allow something like the corona virus to happen. They may be asking why and how people should help. They may be wondering how we can explain death and societal breakdown. You may be asking the same questions. While Christians will never be able on this side of Jesus's return to provide a full answer as to why God allows death and suffering to happen, scripture does teach us a few truths about God and suffering. First, it teaches us that God does not cause suffering. Secondly, it teaches us that God comes down in love to share in that suffering with us.

Take 10 minutes with your child to watch this brief clip with Pastor Tim Keller in which he discusses how Christians should talk about these tough questions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkn5lfutSrY>

Then spend some time discussing the following questions about suffering and death.

- 1) What does it mean for our approach to suffering and death that God acts out of love in the world?
- 2) How should this transform our approach to our own death? And to our own lives?
- 3) How should this impact the way in which we care for others facing death or suffering?

Give your child time and space to process the fears and anxieties they may be feeling right now. Then spend some time in prayer for each other, your family, and our community.

Close with this prayer:

Lord God,
you are attentive to the voice of our pleading.
Let us find in your Son
comfort in our sadness,
certainty in our doubt,
and courage to live through this hour.
Make our faith strong
through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.

Next week:

We will be continuing with our normal curriculum through a video in which Fr. Thomas will teach our confirmands about the Eucharist through a demonstrated Eucharist. We will also begin with a brief discussion with Fr. Thomas and Elisabeth about any questions which may have arisen from your family discussion. Please email any questions you or the confirmand has which you would like them to discuss to Elisabeth at ekincaid@nashotah.edu