

Why Do Bad Things Happen?

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When tough situations arise, look to mentors of faith who show how to move forward without getting discouraged.

For
Teen Family

Season
Winter

Needed

Bible; the [Story of Rosa Parks](#); the [Story of Mother Teresa](#); the [Story of Boy Scouts and a Tornado](#)

Prepare in Advance

Mark your Bible at Matthew 6:31-33; Hebrews 11:1; and 1 Peter 5:7.
Make a printed copy of the three stories listed in "Needed."

Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

God, help us to remember that you're always there for us, especially when life gets hard. Amen.

2. As a family, discuss these questions:
 - When bad things happen, what happens to your faith? Why?
 - Has your faith ever changed after overcoming a major difficulty? If so, how?
 - Why do you think bad things happen?
 - How can we be there for each other when bad things happen?
3. Ask a family member to read aloud Hebrews 11:1; Matthew 6:31-33; and 1 Peter 5:7 from your Bible or the text below. Discuss what these scripture verses teach about living through challenging situations.

Hebrews 11:1: *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

Matthew 6:31-33: *Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

1 Peter 5:6-7: *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*



4. Have someone read aloud the [Story of Rosa Parks](#). Discuss the story using the following questions:
 - What bad thing was Rosa Parks dealing with?
 - Do you think Rosa Parks got discouraged? Why or why not?
 - What do you think helped Rosa Parks live through difficult times?
 - What can we learn from Rosa Parks?

5. Ask someone to read aloud the [Story of Mother Teresa](#). Discuss the story using the following questions:
 - What bad thing was Mother Teresa dealing with?
 - Do you think Mother Teresa got discouraged? Why or why not?
 - What helped Mother Teresa live through difficult times?
 - What can we learn from Mother Teresa?

6. Ask someone to read aloud the [Story of Boy Scouts and a Tornado](#). Discuss the story using the following questions:
 - What bad thing was the Boy Scout troop dealing with?
 - Do you think the members of the Boy Scout troop got discouraged? Why or why not?
 - What helped this Boy Scout troop get through that difficult situation?
 - What can we learn from the Boy Scout troop?

7. Pray aloud:

God, give us strength when we feel weak. Give us hope when we feel hopeless. Give us people who can be models of faithfulness when we're not sure what to do. Amen.

8. *Variation:* Consider reading the book *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* by Harold S. Kushner. Talk about the book as a family.

