

**Why is there suffering and are there any good solutions?
Knowledge Organizer**

1. Key People

Christians	Followers of God who believe that Jesus of Nazareth's death means their souls can exist with God after they die.
Buddhists	People who use the teachings of the Buddha to find inner peace, so that when they die they can exist in a state of bliss or nothingness.
Job	Pronounced "Jobe", the Jewish Bible/Old Testament says he was tested by God.
atheist humanists	People who don't believe in a god, gods or afterlife and share the same ideas about how people should live so that all are happy.

4. Themes

justice 	suffering 	faith 
compassion 	consequence 	charity 

2. You need to know...

- There are different **causes** of suffering in the world today
- Some people live in absolute poverty, when people fall below a global level of income and are **unable to access basic services**, like medicine and shelter
- Other people live in relative poverty, when they are poor in relation to the standard of the society they live in
- Many Christians say **sin** is the **root cause** of suffering
- Many Christians believe that **prayer** is one way suffering can be stopped, if God chooses to act after hearing prayers
- Jesus said that people should **help** each other in times of need; "...whatever you did for one of **the least** of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for **me**."
- **Christian Aid** is a Christian charity that helps people regardless of their beliefs
- Many Buddhists say **craving** things and being **attached** to things causes suffering; **dukkha**
- The Noble Eightfold Path is a set of **guidelines** for living a life that can be free of suffering
- Buddhist teaching emphasizes that **individuals** cause their own suffering, in the way they **react** to the things that affect them in life
- Many atheists and atheist humanists say religions that focus on a god that **rewards and punishes** people for their actions encourage many believers to accept suffering when they should try to **stop** it
- It is said by many atheists that if God existed, it would **stop** suffering in the world, so there is **no** God. Suffering is completely humans' doing.

3. Key vocabulary

- sin:** doing things that are wrong to God or being apart from God
- dukkha:** "unsatisfactoriness", suffering
- tanha:** "thirst", craving and wanting
- righteous:** being or doing right
- agape:** selfless love for others
- human rights:** things everyone should be able to do or have
- faith:** believing something to be true without needing evidence others can see

5. Contexts

- As a Jew, Jesus would have been taught to **follow** God's laws (the mitzvot), aware that many of these laws focus on how people should **live peacefully** together. He believed that having faith in God should mean **doing** what is best for each other, even when it may seem that mitzvot are being broken
- Jews are taught that God puts mitzvot concerning people **in front** of mitzvot concerning God
- Many Jews and Christians today have faith that God will make things better, but also feel they should **do good**, too
- The Buddha taught that **nothing** is permanent. If we accept this, we will be able to **overcome** suffering
- When we are happy or dissatisfied, we know it won't last but we **often** do things to keep feeling happy or stop feeling dissatisfied
- Even though the key to overcoming our suffering is in us, we can **help others** so that their suffering is less
- For many atheists and atheist humanists, believing in a god, especially the god of the Abrahamic faiths, goes against **common sense** and reason; there is no **proof** of God's existence and scientific evidence strongly suggests that many Bible stories are untrue
- They say there is a big **problem** because the Bible gives many Jews and Christians the idea that **only** God can solve Earth's problems, rather than people