

**This video is a court case that has three plaintiffs issuing three separate cases against God. This worksheet will help you follow along.**

**The video role plays a class action suit.** The judge mentions a long list of those who have suffered including the three in the courtroom.

### **Charges:**

- Cruel and inhuman treatment of people
- Hypocrisy
- Preaching Love but practicing hate
- Preach Justice but allows injustice
- Making war upon humans
- Taking pleasure in humanity's suffering.
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**Plaintiff's Lawyer claims it will take intelligence and courage to find God guilty.**

### **First Case: Mr. Schneider:**

- Situation
  - Wife suffered 15 months with cancer.
  - They made her comfortable
  - Prayed and asked God for mercy
  - Thought God was too busy to bother.
  - Children are ok.
- Husband is mad at the reason how he lost his wife.
  - Contaminated water supply of nearby company
  - Cost effective to dump waste
  - Put money before people.
- Feelings toward God  
Believes God is to blame for making the people who made bad decisions.
- Defendant (God's Lawyer)
  - Asks Mr. Schneider about his children.
    - He allowed his children to make mistakes.
    - Sees self as a father not a policeman.

- Daughter learned from her mistakes.
- He allowed his children to make their own decisions.
- Is there good out of this suffering?
  - Mr. Schneider cannot see that God has anything to do with the goodness of their family and how close they are now.

### **Second Case: Dr. Sally Carlin: Works for a health organization**

- Sees things in the "Third World" as fairly bleak
- Sees the cause as malnutrition. Claims those with the money do not share with others.
- Rich and powerful take advantage over the poor.
- Sees Americans as just as bad.
- Feeling towards God?
  - Does not see self as religious.
  - Cannot see God in a "man"
  - Believes religious people as using God as a way to help themselves not others.
- Defense: (God's Lawyer)
  - Why do you do it?
  - She get discouraged? She is not sure why she tries to help?
  - She had to return home because she may be "burning out."
  - She may see the problems as being "too big" for anyone to help.
  - She cannot see the face of God in the people she helps.
  - She wishes she could believe, but feels as though she has not been given the gift of faith.
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### **Third Case: Mr Quinlin**

- Prosecution Questions.
  - Does not see much goodness in life.
  - Daughter is now a prostitute!
  - Tried to bring her home. But she refuses. Daughter hates her parents. She listens to her pimp.
  - Considers himself to be religious once, but not now.
    - Does not see what happened to him to be just or loving.

- Believes God is personally responsible.
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- Defense: (God's lawyer)
  - Asks for peculiar circumstances.
  - Ah Ah! Peter Bledsoe! Quinlin not happy with him! He was black!
  - Daughter and Father quarreled! He forbade her to see Peter!
  - She got pregnant. Father convinced her to have an abortion! NO ONE KNEW. His daughter did not want this!
  - Believed he had to do something.
  - Daughter ran away! Wife blames self. He believes he has to be strong. He blames others! He wants to "kill" them.
  - Believes God shafted them. Feels no guilt himself. Believes he did not deserve what happened to him.

### **THE DEFENSE : God Takes the stand.**

How does God respond to be creator of the universe?

- Responsible for giving people free will
- Did not create robots.
- People are responsible for their actions.

Why did God do It?

- God made people free, so as to share in his joy.
- Evil is when freedom is misused.

The Cross Examination of God.

How does God feel towards the plaintiffs?

They are beautiful even though they hate him

God feels pain in his heart. God does not feel any guilt.

- Though prosecution believes God should feel guilty.
- God punishes no one.
- Would have to eliminate freedom if we stop pain. No freedom, no growth
- Suffering is only temporary.

- Suffering is like garbage, smells, but makes excellent fertilizer so people can grow
- Suffering gives non believers reasons not to believe.
- What is God doing with all the suffering.
  - God is talking to us.
  - Lawyer does not want to take responsibility for the problems of the world. She pawns it off on others.
  - God says he will make it up to the children.
- Lawyer believes God's answers are insulting her intelligence.
  - Gas station in the sky where all will be well!

## **CLOSING ARGUMENTS.**

### **Prosecution.**

Defendant is attractive, bright, and speaks well.

- Very appealing talk is a lie?

Says all of it is a lie. Judge an artist by what he creates.

- A cruel world/therefore a cruel God.

Lawyer says she is too smart to believe in God.

### **Defense:**

Wrestling match with the mystery of human freedom.

- Humans have the power to love or hate.
- The decision is ours. Suffering is a human problem.
- Most of it can be remedied by human beings.

Easy to put our self-hatred on to God.

- This is a cop out.
- Need to open ourselves to God's love and to share it with others.

## **VERDICT OF THE JURY**

1. Verdict of the jury: Hopelessly split on our decision.
2. People beat on God. God does not want to press charges.
3. God says he knows what they are going through.
4. Doctor and Mr. Quinlin embrace God. Mr Schneider asks "What is going on?"



