

## JACK'S CORNER

**QUESTION:** My kids and I were really disturbed by the bombings in the Egyptian churches we heard on the news. We prayed about the whole situation and talked a little, but the weight of the event just seems to hang over us. How can we as parents best use this time?

**ANSWER:** Your comments really encourage me! First, we **should** be deeply “disturbed” (not surprised, but disturbed) by such events in our world. Often, American Christians live in shallowness when it comes to suffering, persecution and the struggles of the world at large. We have been so blessed and protected that our passion has become the continuation and enhancement of our blessings. Myopically, we focus on *our* little world, *our* needs, and *our* wants. Our prayers are self-serving and basically self-centered revolving around our little universe and the family and friends who populate it. We are far more interested in God’s help in making our universe go well, than we are in sacrifice, repentance and deep engagement with the rest of the world. Sure, we pay general lip service to those outside our personal universe, but there is often little empathy, understanding or on-going involvement. I’m thrilled that the “weight” of these murders does still “hang over” you and your kids. Frankly, all Christians should feel this weight! Such feelings speak to your spiritual awareness and maturity. The Holy Spirit is causing you to grieve; don’t be too quick to remove yourself from feelings that can be opportunities for godly transformation.

Second, I thank God that you demonstrated to your children just what Christians do in these situations. We pray, then we act! We pour out our feelings and desires to our God knowing that we can trust in His perfect love and His perfect plans. He lived in our world as the “man of sorrows”...”acquainted with grief”. We can and should bring all our requests to him. Your kids will listen to how you pray. Set a godly example of praying for others.

As much as we parents would like to spare our children grief and pain, we also know that struggle and hardship are better teachers than happiness and smooth sailing. Evil, pain and suffering will find us. We must equip our children to handle them. Avoidance alone will come back to bite them.

Talk to your children calmly and seriously about evil. Watch the news with them; answer questions and pray for the people and

situations you see. Learn to ask your kids probing questions and have well thought-out biblical answers to share with them (If you don't have any answers, maybe God is challenging you to get to know Him better!). Pull out your Bible and share word for word what God says about evil, sin and bad things happening (Imagine, what a great example!). Finally, find opportunities for you and your children to ease suffering and pain in the lives of others. God challenges His people to pray and act.

Jack Lipski, M.A.  
SOTH Counselor

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