

ACCEPTING OUR ILLNESS

- How do you feel about the way God made you? If you had a choice, would you want to be different?
- Think of some other kinds of illnesses. What would you rather have than a mood disorder?

Still, God, you are our Father, we're the clay and you're our potter: All of us are what you made us. Isaiah 64:8 (MSG)

But doom to you who fight your Maker – you're a pot at odds with the potter! Does clay talk back to the potter: "What are you doing? What clumsy fingers!" Would a sperm say to a father, "Who gave you permission to use me to make a baby?" Or a fetus to a mother, "Why have you cooped me up in this belly?"

Thus God, The Holy of Israel, Israel's Maker, says:

"Do you question who or what I'm making? Are you telling me what I can or cannot do?" Isaiah 45:9-11 (MSG)

Many books have been written on the topic of suffering. The Bible also has a lot to say on it. Suffering changes us, refines us, teaches us about life:

I have refined you but not in the way silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering. Isaiah 48:10

- How do you feel your suffering has changed you?
- What has your suffering taught you that you might otherwise not have learned?
- In what way has your suffering "refined" you?

We know that God understands our pain and comforts us. *Living Room* gives us one place where we can comfort others in the way God has comforted us.

Praise be to...the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4