



The Life of Job

The topic of suffering poses some the deepest questions human beings struggle with. Why is there suffering? Why does God allow it? Does the fact that we suffer mean there is no God? Or, that He is not good?

When pain comes our way, we are not prepared; it takes us by surprise because we expected (even though we were entitled to) an easy life. In the midst of our pain, we are impatient, looking for a quick fix. Seeking escape, we anesthetize ourselves. When pain comes to others, we have no idea how to help, so we isolate and avoid them, or add insult to their injury with meaningless platitudes.

Where do we find wisdom to help us make sense of suffering? What does the Bible have to say on the subject? Should Christ-followers expect a life that is free from suffering? Isn't it God's job to protect us from pain? The story of Job offers an unexpected perspective.

Week Six: The God of the Storms

Text: Job 38-41

Discussion Questions:

The following are based on the "My Application" Questions found in the bulletin this week. (Leader urge your group members to attend worship—or watch the sermon online—and to spend time considering and answering those questions before coming to the group. This will produce a richer discussion time.)

- Icebreaker: Describe a time when you felt very small.
- What causes us to have a bigger view of ourselves and a smaller view of God?
- Share a time in your life when you wanted to question God. What was that like for you? What emotions did you experience? How did you process or how are you processing it?
- Job had some questions for God. How did God answer? Was it the sort of answer Job was looking for?
- How does Job respond to God? (Look at Job 40:1-5)
- What is difficult or uncomfortable about this interaction between Job and God? What is reassuring or comforting?
- What is the practical difference between a life that is human-centered rather than God-centered?

Prayer:

Whatever our troubles are, we have a limited perspective on them. Even if God told us what is really going on, we couldn't understand it. But He doesn't reject us or condemn us for asking. Instead, He invites us to know Him better. Whatever is hurting or troubling you right now, we can ask God to use that circumstance to reveal Himself to us in a new way. (Have the group pair up and pray this for each other.)

Application:

Share with your group: How have you been able to BLESS suffering people around you during the course of this study? Continue to look for opportunities to be intentional in the lives of people who feel far from God in the middle of suffering. Ask your group for ideas. Maybe the group can work together to be a blessing to someone you know.

Scripture Memory:

*When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them.*

Psalm 8:3-4