



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 Seven: Restoration

Text: Job 42:1-17

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.)

- Have you ever lost confidence in God while you were suffering?
- As you reflect on the book of Job, what did God reveal to Job that restored Job's confidence?
- As you think about the story, what happened to Job's community of friends that made his suffering worse? (See Job 42:7-11) What was Job's part in restoring this community?
- Have you ever been let down or maybe you let down someone in suffering?
- How could you help your community be stronger together?
- As you see the end of the story, why didn't God give Job 20 children since he doubled everything else? (See Job 42:10-17) What does this tell us about God's restoration?

Prayer:

As you pray for each other this week and focus on the areas in which you have been suffering, pray for God's resoration. Go beyond asking that He would restore your experience of blessing. Ask for a restoration of your confidence in God and of your community of friends. Pray God will show you how you can play a part in that restoration.

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 opportunitites 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.

As we begin an new sermon series next week, this is a great time to invite new people to Church and to your small group.

Scripture Memory:

*My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.
Job 42:5*