

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS FOR JOB

Read: Job 1:20 to 2:13, 13:15 and 19:23-27

WARM UP

Imagine a friend who has experienced a great family loss and then shortly thereafter is diagnosed with a painful, debilitating disease. How would you respond to them? If it was you suffering, what would you want them to say to you?

EXPLORATION

1. The account of Job is troubling at best for most people and alarming to some when we first read it, particularly the first two chapters. What are your thoughts about God giving Satan permission to take everything away from Job, even his children and his health? What are your feelings about Job's circumstances? If they were your circumstances, how would you feel?
2. How is Job described by the writer in 1:1 and by God in 1:8 and 2:3? What do you think is meant by the words "blameless" and "upright" with regard to his relationship with God (Note: we have run across these descriptors in previous books; Noah in Gen. 6:9, David in 2 Sam. 22:24 and Abraham in Gen. 17:1)? What about the other two descriptors; "fearing God" and "turning away from evil"? How do you think these four descriptions are related?
3. Read Job's reaction to his calamity in 1:20-2:13. What does Job NOT do or say that he could have chosen to do or say? According to the text, what would have been sin for Job at this point?
4. When God finally speaks to Job, He essentially challenges him to "gird up your loins like a man and I will ask you and you instruct Me!" God makes this statement twice. Perhaps we are surprised that God does not offer comforting and sympathetic words to Job. Instead, He challenges Job's perspective and his attitude by asking Job about his role in creation, his role in bringing about the natural order of things (e.g., the dawn, rain, lightning and thunder) and his thoughts about God's amazing creatures. Why do you think God uses this approach?
5. In the end, God rebukes Job's friends for misrepresenting Him and affirms that Job represented Him in a right way. What is required to bring about forgiveness for Job's

friends and healing for Job? How is this consistent with other stories in the Bible and with the life of Jesus?

APPLICATION

The story of Job is clearly about suffering, but it is also about blessing coming out of pain. Sometimes when we hear that someone is suffering we assume in some way they probably brought it on themselves, but the story of Job teaches us otherwise. Reflect on sufferings you and others either are going through and what those experiences are teaching you. Pray for one another this week that as we start a new year, we would be able to represent Him well in both our sufferings and in our blessings. Make it a point to share these things with the group throughout the coming year.