

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 23, 2011

Passage: Job 1:1-2:10

Memory Passage: Job 1:21

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 1:1-5.** As you read, write down what you observe about the man Job. What facts do you learn?
- (b) What do you learn about his character in v. 1? Write a quick definition of each of these 4 terms. Are these observable characteristics? If so, what actions would show a man to have this kind of character?
- (c) Write a short definition of your character? Be honest with your assessment of your day-to-day actions and thoughts. How do you think someone else who watched you live would describe your character in one sentence?
- (d) *Family: Read Job 1:1-5.* Ask your family how Job's character is described, and write the characteristics on your white board (leaving room for definitions). Discuss each word and agree on a definition of each one. Now **read Prov. 3:7 & 16:6.** Teach that the one who "fears God" will "turn away from evil" and that when one lives like this they are considered wise by God rather than showing they are "wise in their own eyes." Emphasize that character & integrity are important to God.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 1:1-5.** In patriarchal times (Job probably lived during the days of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob) wealth was often measured by one's livestock. Job would be considered very wealthy. What attitude do you think he had toward his wealth (consider his character described in v. 1)? Why do you think he was considered "the greatest of all the people of the east?"
- (b) What do we learn about Job's family in v. 4? How does this reflect upon Job as a father? How would you characterize the relationship between the members of this extended family?
- (c) Why did Job offer sacrifices on behalf of his family? Job is shown showing great care for the spiritual health of his family. What are your concerns for the spiritual health of your family? How do you regularly provide for their spiritual health and protection? If you are not providing for this, what can you begin doing today to begin providing and caring for your family's spiritual health? If you are not the head of your household, how do you respond to his spiritual leading in your life?
- (d) *Family:* Ask your family: "Why do we meet regularly for family worship/devotions (whatever you call your time together)? **Read Job 1:1-5** and teach about Job's spiritual care and protection for his family, the joyful celebrations his family regularly had, and how this is connected with Job's character. Then explain why you have regular family devotions, and be clear with the Biblical commands that drive you. This will help your children to understand/reinforce your role as the spiritual head of your family. As you lead your family in prayer, pray specifically for each one according to their needs.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 1:6-12.** Where do these verses take place? Who are the "sons of God" and was Satan one of them?
- (b) Who initiated the conversation? Do you find this to be important? Why or why not?
- (c) What was Satan doing as he was going to and fro and walking on the earth (1 Pet. 5:8)? What do you think God meant when he asked Satan if he had "considered" Job? Do you think that Satan had already "considered" Job? Why/why not?
- (d) It is interesting that God references Job's character and Satan references Job's wealth. What does this reveal about the motives and plans of both God and Satan? What is this "hedge" to which Satan refers?
- (e) *Family: Read Job 1:6-12* with three readers: one as narrator, one as God, and one as Satan. Describe our shift in setting: v. 1-5 give us a view of earth; vs. 6-12 give us a view into heaven. **Read 1 Pet. 5:6-11** and explain what Satan spends his time doing and how your family can/must resist him. **James 4:7-11** is also valuable in describing how we do this. Emphasize the need for humility and repentance before God, submission to Him, God's care for us, our need to be watchful and resist Satan, the short duration of our suffering (this life compared to eternity), and the importance of faith. This is also a great time to present again the gospel to your family as the way to accomplishing all of this.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 1:6-12.** What do you think Satan is saying about God in vs. 9-11? Think about his accusations. Are they against Job or against God? What is Satan's implication in v. 11?
- (b) What limitations does God set on Job in v. 12? What was God's purpose in setting these limitations? Why do you think Satan immediately left God's presence instead of arguing with God about these limitations?

(c) How do vs. 6-12 shape our view of evil and Satan's use of it? What practical lessons can we draw from this view as we walk through suffering or the seemingly unchecked advancement of evil? How does this help you answer statements like the ones surrounding 9/11 such as, "God had nothing to do with men flying planes into buildings! That was pure evil and God wasn't within a million miles of that"?

(d) *Family: Read Job 1:6-12.* Take this time to explain to your family that Satan is more powerful than us, but that God is more powerful than Satan and sets the parameters around Satan's actions. Emphasize that God controlled the conversation, the outcome of the conversation, and was in control of everything that Satan could do to Job. Also emphasize God's loving care for His people and His plan to do all things for His own glory so they understand that even when something bad happens God's character does not change.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Job 1:13-22.** What happened to Job in these verses? Was there anything left of his wealth? His possessions? His servants? His family? What was Job's response? Notice that what he did was called "worship" (v. 20). How is Job's response one of worship?

(b) Imagine yourself in Job's situation. What would your response have been? What can we learn from Job concerning adversity and how we respond to it? How can you prepare now, in times without such calamity, to respond in a godly manner?

(c) **Read Job 2:1-6.** What differences do you notice between this heavenly scene and the one in chapter 1? What does Satan say will happen when Job, or any other human, has his life threatened? What does this imply about what Satan thinks about the bounds of our faith and trust in God? Again God sets limitations on Satan's actions. How does God limit Satan this time?

(d) *Family: Read Job 1:13-22* This is another Scripture passage that works well to read in parts. If you have enough readers, assign 5 parts: The narrator, three messengers, and Job. Have your family compare what is taken from Job with the list of his wealth and family in Job 1:1-3 and identify what is left (nothing). Using your white board, have your family list all the material and family blessings they can think of (help them be complete!). Discuss how they would feel if everything on the list was taken away in a matter of minutes. How would they respond? Read Job's response (vs. 20-22) and teach them that God is the only One worthy of worship, and that our happiness is not found in riches and family but in Christ! Help them understand the idolatry that Job avoided by not turning on God when he lost all of his family and wealth.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Job 2:7-10.** How did Job's wife respond to Job's adversity after it increased to include such physical suffering? How did Job respond to her? Was his response loving? Was it wise? How does Job's response match his character (1:1, 8; 2:3)?

(b) Are you tempted to sin when you face adversity & suffering? Remember that Job did not have the advantage of knowing the heavenly discussion that we read about, and yet he did not sin (1:22 & 2:10). How can you prepare yourself to not sin when God trusts you with adversity and suffering? What facts do you already know about Christ and His work on your behalf that allows you to even contemplate such a response? (In other words, what does the gospel have to do with your suffering?)

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A Considerable Servant