

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 13, 2011

Passage: Job 8-10

Memory Passage: Psalm 16 (Our 3rd week of memorizing this Psalm.)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 8.** What are the “these things” to which Bildad refers in v. 2? Why does he call Job’s words “a great wind?”
- (b) Summarize Bildad’s thinking in vs. 3-4. Is his theology in v. 3 correct? Why or why not? Is his application of this theology in v. 4 correct? Why or why not?
- (c) What does Bildad tell Job to do in vs. 5-7? Is his advice Scriptural? Is his advice the right advice for Job? Why or why not? How would you have received Bildad’s advice if you were Job?
- (d) Bildad claims his understanding of God’s justice is true because it is tradition (vs. 8-10). Is this a sound argument? Does God work through tradition? Is tradition bad or good? Does Bildad use tradition in a profitable way? Why or why not?
- (e) *Family:* Justice and righteousness are major themes in Job, so today you will try to introduce this basic concept. On a piece of paper write: “1 + 1 = 3” and hold it up for your family to contemplate. If you have younger children that do not know addition yet you can replace the math problem with a piece of colored paper (i.e. a yellow paper that you claim is red). Ask your family if the math problem is correct. When they say, “no,” ask them why it is not correct (challenge them a little bit here by saying things like, “It is correct because today is Monday” or “It is correct because I choose to say it is”). After your lively discussion, explain that “1 + 1” can only be “2” because it is the answer that conforms with what is true. Now read Deut. 32:4 and explain that God’s character is righteous and just, and everything He does is righteous and just because all of His activities conform with His own character.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 8.** Bildad uses three illustrations from nature to prove his point (vs. 11-19). Explain each illustration and how it supports his thesis and the authority of tradition (vs. 3, 5-7, 8-10).
- (b) How does Bildad end his first speech (i.e. what is the content of vs. 20-21 and how is it delivered)? Is his theology correct? Has he applied it correctly? Why or why not?
- (c) What have you learned from Bildad’s first speech about giving advice? About how not to give advice? Could Bildad have given the same theological advice in a way that would have been more comforting and sympathizing with Job and his condition and yet still spoke truth? How so?
- (d) *Family:* Using yarn or string make a “spider web” across a door way or the bottom of stairs by criss-crossing the yarn/string back and forth across the opening. Ask your family if your “spider web” would stop you from going through the doorway, and ask them if it would hold you if you leaned all of your weight into it. When they answer “of course not,” continue to press them for reasons why. Read Job 8:13-15, and explain that just as it would be foolish to put your trust in your web to hold you up, so it is foolish to put our trust in anything other than God.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 9.** To what does Job refer when he says, “Truly I know that it is so” in v. 2? What kind of tone do you think he is using as he begins this speech?
- (b) Job returns to one of the over-arching questions of these speeches in v. 2: How can a man be in the right before God? What does he have to say about this question in vs. 3-12? What does this hymn of praise tell us about Job’s view of God?
- (c) If you were to stop reading Job at 9:12, what would you expect Job’s answer to be to the question in v. 2? To what conclusion should his understanding of God lead him? How would you answer the question he asks in 9:2?
- (d) *Family:* **Read Job 9:2** and ask your family: “How would you answer this question?” After they give answers, Read 1 Cor. 1:30 & 2 Cor. 5:21. Explain in detail that believers are given the righteousness of Christ because of His death on the cross. You might use your whiteboard to set up two columns of a ledger to show how our account is first full of sin, then empty because our sin has been forgiven, then full of righteousness because of Christ’s righteousness credited (imputed) to our account. This answers the question: “how can a man be in the right before God?”

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Job 9.** Job uses much courtroom language in these chapters (“contend,” “answer,” “accuser,” appeal,” “condemn,” “summon” etc.). Summarize Job’s defense/argument found in vs. 13-24. What is Job questioning about God? Has his view of God shifted? Why or why not?
- (b) Job begins in this section to argue in a rather schizophrenic way, moving back and forth between statements that are true and questions that reveal his struggle with God. What are Job’s concerns with God in vs. 25-35? What is his plea by the end of the chapter?
- (c) Can you identify with Job’s cries? Do you think he has the right to answer such questions of God? Why or why not? How would you counsel someone who was answering such questions of God? Would it be different from Bildad’s counsel?
- (d) *Family:* Have your family each draw a picture of what they think of when they hear you **read Psalm 37:1-7**. Read it two or three times so they focus on at least one statement about which they will draw. Then take the time to explain to them how to trust in the Lord, to delight themselves in the Lord, and to commit their way to the Lord. Use an experience from your own life in which God taught you to live this way more fully. Then describe a hypothetical situation, one that will be real to them, and work through as a family how they would live in light of Psalm 37:1-7.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Job 10.** In v. 2, what accusation does Job make against God? Is this question/accusation a product of Job’s view of God or of Eliphaz & Bildad’s view of God? Why?
- (b) In this chapter Job returns to his lamenting, similar to chapter 3. What similarities do you see between chapters 3 & 10? What differences do you see? Is Job more hopeful in chapter 10? How can you tell?
- (c) How would you point someone to Christ from the text of Job’s argument in chapters 9 & 10? In other words, are there themes/statements that foreshadow Christ and His work on the cross on behalf of those who are not righteous before God? And if so, how would you point someone to Christ from these themes/statements?
- (d) *Family:* Read Job 9:33 & 10:7. Job is asking for an arbiter and for a redeemer in these verses. Explain these two words to your family, and ask: “How would you answer Job’s cry: “There is no arbiter between us! There is no one to deliver me!” Use this time to assess their understanding of the lesson on day 3, and to reinforce the gospel. You can help them understand more fully how we are separated from God because of our sin and how Christ redeemed His people (those who repent & believe on Christ) from their sin and became their righteousness so that they can stand before God.

DATE: February 3, 2011*The Speeches: Bildad vs. Job Round 1***PASSAGE:** Job 8-10