

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 27, 2011

Passage: Job 15-17

Memory Passage: Psalm 16 (Our 5th week of memorizing this Psalm.)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) Before you read chapter 15, think for a moment of what you would say to Job if you were Eliphaz. Think about what you said in your first speech, and what Bildad & Zophar have said, and how Job has responded. What would you say to Job as you stood to begin round 2?
- (b) **Read Job 15:1-16.** Of what does Eliphaz accuse Job in the first 6 verses (list everything you find)? How would you summarize how Eliphaz has received Job so far: Listened but not really heard; heard but disagreed; heard but not understood; heard and felt helpless; or something different than any of these?
- (c) In vs. 1-13, what one topic consumes Eliphaz's thought? What is the nature of his charge against Job in this area?
- (d) To what familiar theme does Eliphaz return in vs. 14-16? Would you consider this wise counsel? Why or why not?
- (e) *Family: Read Job 15:2-3.* Eliphaz accuses Job of speaking in ways that wise men should not speak. Have your family reword each of these 4 statements in modern terms and record them on your white board (FYI: "the east wind" is a hot, dry wind). Now read the following verses and reword each of them in modern terms, recording the positives in one column and the negatives in the other: Prov. 10:11, 19-21; 12:25; 13:2-3; 15:2-4, 23, 28 16:24; 21:23; 25:11. Spend some time talking about the type of speech the Scriptures prize and giving examples of how that speech looks and sounds.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 15:17-35.** Upon what authority is Eliphaz speaking in these verses? Does he claim a different authority in this speech than in his first speech?
- (b) About whom is Eliphaz speaking in these verses (v. 20)? Is he only speaking about the wicked? Where does Eliphaz see Job in his description of the wicked? Summarize his main points.
- (c) Evaluate Eliphaz's counsel in this, his second speech. Answer questions like: Is it true? Does it produce fruit? Is it compassionate? Is it wise? Is it the result of listening to Job's situation or pre-conceived notions?
- (d) What have you learned so far from Eliphaz about giving counsel to others (remember, we learn both from correct and wrong examples)? To make sure we are being intensely practical, codify your answer by writing it in the form of "Three Principles of Counseling I Learned from Eliphaz."
- (e) *Family: Read Job 15:31.* Engage your family in a discussion of what Eliphaz means by this warning (i.e. what it means to trust in emptiness, how trusting in emptiness deceives us, how emptiness will be our payment [see v. 32 where we are told that the wicked who live this way will receive their reward: death]). Then Read Prov. 3:5-8 and discuss how the wise man lives. Contrast these verses (both the descriptions & rewards) with Eliphaz's description of the wicked trusting in themselves.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 16.** Job begins his response with a stronger tone, probably in response to Eliphaz's stronger tone in chapter 15. What is Job's message to Eliphaz and the other friends in vs. 2-5 (the "you" in v. 3 is singular, directed toward Eliphaz himself, but the other occurrences of "you" are plural)?
- (b) What reason does Job give for continuing to speak (v. 6)? To whom is he speaking in this chapter?
- (c) Summarize Job's description of God's actions found in vs. 7-17. If you were one of Job's friends, sitting with him on the ash heap, how would you feel when he spoke this way? How would you feel if a friend spoke to you this way about God? How would you counsel them? Have you yourself ever felt this way about God? What did you do?
- (d) *Family: Read Job 16:6-17.* Discuss with your family that Job is using several pictures to describe how he is feeling in the midst of his situation. He pictures God as his enemy because he knows that God is in control of his situation. Now **Read Prov. 3:5-8** again and discuss with your family how they can help Job respond to his own situation. Next, help your family understand how to apply these verses to their own life when they feel like everything is going wrong.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 16:18-17:3.** Job has another of his flashes of hope in these verses! What two ideas do you see in this passage in which Job is hoping? Do these ideas surprise you? Why or why not?

- (b) Why does Job cry out to the earth (16:18)? What is he asking (see Genesis 4:8-11)? How are vs.19-22 connected to v.18?
- (c) For what is Job asking God in 17:3? On what basis do you think Job asks this? Is this based solely on hope in light of his need or is he holding fast to teaching/precepts he already has?
- (d) Of what aspects of Christ's work on the cross on behalf of His people does this request remind you? Scripture passages?
- (e) *Family: Read Job 17:3.* Explain to your family that Job is asking for God to offer Himself as a pledge, or security, toward his innocence. Use the example of someone posting bail for a jailed person (that person pays the price of release & assumes responsibility for the person released) to explain what Job is asking. Then **Read 1 Tim. 2:5-6** and explain what is meant by Jesus being our ransom (i.e. He died on the cross in our place ["for" in v. 6 = "in the place of"] in order to redeem us from our sin by paying the price of death and suffering the wrath of God.).

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 17:6-16.** How would you describe Job's emotional condition in this chapter? Does he express the same hope that flickered in 16:19 & 17:3? Have you ever felt such despair?
- (b) What should be our response to those among us who are in deep despair? Do you think Job's friends' advice would help in situations where despair is so overwhelming? Why/why not? What have we learned so far about giving counsel that would help us know how to respond to those who are depressed?
- (c) What Scripture passages come to your mind that would be encouragement to those who are depressed? How do you know when to direct people to Scripture during times of depression?
- (d) Are you now or have you ever been depressed? Be ready to share with others what actions/words from others helped lift you from despair, and what passages or Scripture brought you comfort or helped put the truth of your situation into focus.
- (e) *Family:* Continue developing your running commentary on the speeches by having your family summarize Eliphaz's speech and add it to the sheet on which you summarized his first speech. Summarize Job's response as well and add it to the sheet that has all of Job's responses. Remember, we are developing one sheet per person that reflects the totality of their thought throughout the book of Job.

DATE: February 27, 2011

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The Speeches: Eliphaz vs. Job Round 2