

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 20, 2011

Passage: Job 22

Memory Passage: Psalm 51:3-4

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 22:1-11.** Eliphaz asks a series of questions in vs. 2-5. What answer does he assume for each question, and what is he trying to prove? Or, to put it another way, what point does he think he has made when he arrives at v. 5?
- (b) Of what does Eliphaz accuse Job in vs. 6-9? What proof does he offer to substantiate these allegations? Why does Eliphaz fabricate these grievous allegations against Job?
- (c) What, according to Eliphaz, are the consequences of such actions (vs. 10-11)? Where in past speeches have you heard these types of descriptions?
- (d) Has Eliphaz sinned in these verses (if you think he has, what Scripture passage has he violated)? If you were one of his friends, how would you respond to him? Would you allow him to continue to speak or would you interrupt and challenge him?
- (e) *Family:* **Prior to your time of family worship, Read 2 Sam. 11-12** to remind yourself of the details of the story of David & Bathsheba. During your worship, summarize the events of chapter 11 and then **Read 12:1-15** to your family (or have them read it aloud). Ask, “What is David doing in 12:13?” (Answer: confessing his sin). Then take your family to **Ps. 51** and **read the superscript** (those words prior to v. 1 that explain the setting of the Psalm) and explain that this week you will study this Psalm of repentance in which David repents over his sin with Bathsheba. Now **Read 51:1-2** and explain them to your family, especially pointing out the character of God on which David is basing his repentance (a God who is merciful, loving, able & willing to forgive sin, etc.). Be ready to explain more fully what mercy & love are, and how God forgives sin in Christ.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 22:12-20.** What is the contrast Eliphaz presents between his own view (v. 12) and Job’s view (vs. 13-14) of God? Does Eliphaz correctly represent Job’s view? Why/why not?
- (b) What is “the old way” of which Eliphaz speaks in v. 15? What end befalls those who were on this path? How does this end compare with what Job has presented of those who might be on this path? How would you disciple someone to stay off of this path?
- (c) Eliphaz says, “the counsel of the wicked is far from me” in v. 18. How does his use compare with Job’s use in 21:16?
- (d) Read **Prov. 24:17, Ps. 58:10-11 & Job 22:19-20.** Do these verses contradict one another? Why/why not?
- (e) *Family:* **Read Ps. 51:3-6.** Remind your family of the purpose/topic of your study this week (repentance), and what you learned yesterday about God’s character. Now teach vs. 3-6, focusing on the need for confession, the facts that our sin affects not only those we sinned against but it ultimately offends God, that it is never God’s fault that we sin and He is the perfect & righteous judge, that we are sinners from birth (we don’t become sinners when we sin, we sin because we are sinners from birth), and God delights in and teaches us truth & wisdom in our innermost being. Rom. 3:4 (where Paul quotes Ps. 51:4) and Rom. 3:21-26 might also help you teach these verses today.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 22:21-30.** In v. 21, we return to the familiar theme of calling Job into repentance. (FYI: The word “agree” [ESV] also carries the idea of “submit, yield, or acquiesce.”) How does Eliphaz instruct Job to repent (vs. 21-24)?
- (b) We know that Eliphaz is still calling Job into repentance for sin he has not committed, and is preaching that if Job repents his suffering will cease, but the picture he paints of repentance and its rewards in these verses are true and profitable for us today. Define repentance. How does the truth of v. 22 help us to repent? How does this truth help us to “bear fruit in keeping with repentance” (Matt. 3:8; 2 Cor. 7:8-13, see also Ps. 119:11)? (i.e., How does this verse help us with daily sanctification?)
- (c) What is promised to us in v. 25 when we repent? How will you apply this verse today in your battle with materialism/love of money/lack of satisfaction? What other verses can you think of that would increase your arsenal as you battle?
- (d) *Family:* Review what you have learned so far in Ps. 51 and remind everyone of its setting (David’s repentance). **Read Ps. 51:7-12** and teach these verses to your family. As you teach every verse, point out that every act is an act of God, not David’s. David has confessed & repented of his sin and pleaded with God to act on his behalf. Then memorize together vs. 10-12 by teaching your family the chorus “Create in Me a Clean Heart.”

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

(a) **Read Job 22:21-30.** Eliphaz describes the benefits of repentance to Job, and presents them as incentives for him to repent. What benefits does Eliphaz describe in vs. 26-30?

(b) Job has lamented that he cannot lift his head (10:15-16). Have you ever felt such shame or sadness or depression that you did not feel you could lift your head to God or walk with confidence in Christ among other men? What did you do? How can repentance cause you to be able to “lift up your face to God?” Even if you don’t think you have experienced this feeling, how would you use this benefit of repentance to counsel those who have?

(c) Is Eliphaz correct that unrepentant sin will cause God not to hear our prayers but repentance restores this blessing? Can you think of other verses that teach this same truth?

(d) *Family:* After you have reviewed what you have already learned, **Read Ps. 51:13-17.** Teach these verses to your family. Emphasize the results of repentance, what God desires (a broken & humble heart rather than works), and how Jesus has become our once-for-all sacrifice so that we can live this way before God. After you have taught, sing, “Create in Me a Clean Heart” and tie your declaration of praise to vs. 14c-15.

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

(a) **Read Job 22:21-30.** What is Eliphaz promising in v. 28-30? FYI, a fitting translation of difficult Hebrew in v. 29 would be: “For when they are humbled you say, ‘Rise!’ and/then he saves the lowly.” What are some practical examples of this kind of post-repentant ministry? In other words, what does it look like when it happens?

(b) **Read Psalm 51** and skim through the Family Questions from all 5 days. What do you learn about repentance and its blessings that you did not learn in Job 22:21-30?

(c) Assume that someone has come to you and asked, “What does it mean to repent and why should I do it?” Summarize in one paragraph what you would tell them based on what you have learned this week. Remember, repentance is a daily (minute-by-minute?) requirement for a believer as well as a requirement for someone to be saved, so this is important for your life as well as your witness and counsel to others.

(d) *Family:* Conclude your study of Psalm 51 by having your family tell you what they learned this week. As they speak, lead them into deeper/fuller truth as they tell you what they remember. Then, **Read Ex. 34:6-7** to remind them of God’s character & lead them in a time of prayer, guiding them to put what they learned into practice. Have them identify specific sins (they can even write them down), confess them to God, plead for God to act according to his character, and rest in God’s faithfulness toward those who are of broken and contrite hearts. Close by singing “Create in Me a Clean Heart.”

DATE: March 20, 2011

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The Speeches: Eliphaz: Round 2