

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 27, 2011

Passage: Job 23-24

Memory Passage: Psalm 94:14-15

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Job 23.** To what 2 familiar themes does Job return in vs. 1-12? Which do you think is the more important quest in Job's mind, finding God in order to stand before Him and present his case or finding God in order to restore his relationship with Him?

(b) Upon what basis does Job expect God to vindicate him in vs. 1-7? Is he correct in his hope? Why or why not?

(c) Job affirms that God is alive and working (v. 9) even though he does not "see" Him (vs. 8-9). In spite of that, in what does Job take comfort (v. 10), and on what basis does he take this comfort (vs. 11-12)?

(d) Are you walking through a season in which God seems distant to you (if the answer is "no," don't assume that you won't walk through times like this in the future, so prepare for those times now)? Meditate on & memorize 23:10 so that you increase your arsenal of weapons with which to fight off times of melancholy & depression (see also Ps. 17:3 & Is. 48:9-11).

(e) **Family: Read Job 23:10.** Ask your family what Job means when he says that God "has tried" him, and lead in a discussion of what this idea means. Then explain that Job is saying that even though he is being tested and tried, in the end he will be considered "as gold," which means that his faith will be counted as real (fake gold will be exposed during the purifying process) and precious (gold is the most valuable metal in Scripture). Have your family think of several instances of trial that they might face and write them on your white board (make sure these are instances to which your kids can relate). Discuss how true, biblical faith will impact our reaction to such trials and so be shown, in the end, to "come out as gold."

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Job 23.** Looking again at Job's claim to blamelessness in vs. 11 & 12, do you think that Job is accurate in his claims given what you know of him through studying 23 chapters of Job? Why or why not?

(b) In what areas of your life have you failed to "(hold) fast to His steps," "(keep) His way and not turn aside," or obey "the commandment of his lips" (vs. 11-12)? Write down several ways that you will address these sins, turning them into an opportunity for obedience, beginning today (hint: 12b & Ps. 119:11 will help you here). Don't just skip over this question ☺. Remember that we must not make excuses for our sin, or act as if our sin is actually not sin, or at least not very bad sin. In order to live a life of repentance we must first agree that there is a need to repent & understand from what we are repenting.

(c) Spend some time in prayer confessing these sins and meditating on the Gospel, asking God to renew your focus on the saving work of Christ on your behalf and to show you how you might live with a stronger application of this Gospel in your battle to mortify these sins. You might also review and apply Rom. 8:13 in prayer & meditation: "For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."

(d) **Family: Read Ps. 119:9-16.** Explain these verses to your family and discuss with them their importance for the Christian life. Point out that the question is asked on their behalf: "how can a young man (or woman) keep his (her) way pure?" Teach them each line emphasizing their need to seek God whole-heartedly and to have a true desire to not deviate from His commandments, to memorize and meditate on God's holy word as a means of killing sin and keeping their eyes fixed on Christ and His ways, to delight in God's word, etc. Illustrate the importance of these verses by giving examples from your own life of the benefits of these disciplines and how they have helped you focus on & delight in God and put to death sin.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Job 24:1-12.** In vs. 1-12 Job responds (again) to his friends' theology (which states that all the wicked suffer, all the righteous do not, and that suffering is always a sign of judgment), by cataloguing a list of social injustices that seem to go unpunished (vs. 1, 12). As you read through each verse, write down the injustice Job describes.

(b) Now consider your list in light of the culture in which you live. Do these kinds of injustices still exist today? How so? To spur your thinking: Could the use of eminent domain laws by individuals/corporations to seize private property under the guise of "blighting" be an example of those who "move landmarks" (v. 2)? Think locally as well as nationally! What is your role as a believer, as well as our church's role, in such instances? What Scripture passages inform your views in these areas?

(c) **Family:** Take one of the examples you came up with in (b), as well as Scripture passages that inform this injustice, and discuss with your family how you might, as a family, get involved in ministering to those affected by this injustice

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

(a) **Read Job 24:13-17.** Job continues his rejection of his friends' theology by listing criminal injustices upon which God delays His judgment. These verses are Job's observation of his world, but they must also challenge us as we consider the words of our Lord. Reflect on these criminal injustices in light of the 10 commandments (specifically commandments 6-10) & Jesus' words in His Sermon on the Mount (specifically Matt. 5:13-16 & 21-30) and ask the Lord to reveal to you ways in which you are guilty of these same sins. Write down your response, and ways in which you will mortify these specific sins. Remember that God has either delayed His justice to you in these areas for His own glory (Rom. 3:25-26) showing grace to you so you might repent unto salvation (Acts 17:30), or He has already exercised the justice due to you on Christ (John 3:16, 2 Cor. 5:17, et. al.) so that you might repent and be sanctified. Either way, do not answer this question and implement mortification apart from the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

(b) *Family:* **Read Exodus 20:13.** Ask your family, "Have any of you ever committed murder?" After their answers of "no!" ask them: "Are you sure?" **Read Matthew 5:21-12** and teach that God is not only concerned with our external actions but our heart motivations as well, and that according to Jesus we are all guilty of violating the 6th commandment if we have ever been angry with or insulted others. **Read Eph. 4:29-5:2** to give your family tools with which to battle these sins when they begin to arise in their hearts.

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

(a) **Read Rom. 6:5-14, Gal. 2:20, Eph. 2:8-10 & Philippians 4:13.** We have spent much time this week prostrate before the Lord asking Him to reveal to us our sin and attempting to implement concrete ways in which we will crucify that sin in light of and through the power of the Gospel. Today, in order to keep us focused on the Gospel as the only power available to us to mortify our flesh, read and meditate on these passages. Write down specific ways that the Gospel provides for you the power to crucify sin, and make sure your applications this week are fueled by the truth and power of this Gospel.

(b) *Family:* Help your family do the same thing you have done in (a). Take this opportunity to hammer home (Again! Repetition is the key to knowledge!) the truths of our sinfulness, our need for a Savior, the salvation offered to us in Christ, and the need to continue to live by the Gospel every day after we are saved. Remember your task of teaching your children these grand truths of Gospel-centered, grace-filled living available to those who are in Christ. Picture your children as adults who do not have to shed the baggage of legalism, moralism, and life based on works (as many of us have had to shed) because they have been taught the true power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ from their youth! Persevere in this long and difficult task of parenting your children by grace!

DATE: March 27, 2011

The Speeches: Job to Eliphaz: Round 3

PASSAGE: Job 23-24