

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 3, 2011

Passage: Job 25-26

Memory Passage: Psalm 144:3-4

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 25.** What is Bildad claiming about God and His character as he begins his final speech (vs. 2-3)? To what in Job's last speech do you think Bildad might be responding?
- (b) As in many of the friends' speeches, what Bildad says about God in these verses is very true. Mediate for a moment on these aspects of God's character and then consider: What affect does/should these truths have on your life? Does it matter to you, I mean really, practically matter to you that God is holy & has total dominion, total power, and total sovereignty over His creation?
- (c) What familiar claim does Bildad reiterate in v. 3? Where in these speeches have you heard this claim before?
- (d) *Family: Read Job 25.* Summarize Bildad's final argument and enter it on Bildad's sheet (the sheet you have been keeping to record the flow of each one's individual argument). You may also need to go back to Eliphaz & Job's speeches in chapter 22-24 and record a summary on each of their sheets as well.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 25, Psalm 8, & Hebrews 2:5-18.** Notice the similar language found in Job 25:5-6 & Ps. 8:3-4. What do David & Bildad say about man and his place in God's creation in Psalm 8:3-6? What are the differences between their views? What other similarities do you observe between these two passages?
- (b) To what does Ps. 8:4-6 point according to Heb. 2:5-18 (see also Ps. 110:1; 1 Cor. 15:25-27, & Eph. 1:20-22)?
- (c) If Bildad had a proper view of God's total plan for the pinnacle of His creation (mankind), how would he have ended his speech in chapter 25 (see Is. 41:14 for Isaiah's view of the worm, Israel, and their only hope).
- (d) *Family: Read Job 25:5-6 & Ps. 8.* Explain to your family that Bildad is correct in his assessment of mankind as far as he goes, but that he is incomplete. By themselves, no one can approach God because of their sin, and in that sense we are worms. And yet, God created man in His own image, gave them dominion over His creation, and showed great care and concern for them as He created them and placed them in the garden to exercise this dominion. If you have time, read **Hebrews 2:5-18** and show your family how the writer of Hebrews quotes Ps. 8:3-4 to point to Christ as the One who has ultimate dominion over God's creation and provides salvation to His people by making propitiation (a sacrifice that turns God's wrath away from us and causes Him to turn toward us with favor) for His people through His suffering on the cross.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 26.** This is Job's final response to his friends. The speeches he gives in chapters 27-31 are independent of these three friends. As he opens chapter 26 & again berates his friends' advice and counsel, how do you think Job would answer each of the 6 questions he asks in vs. 2-4? How would you yourself answer them based on what you have learned from the friends' speeches?
- (b) In case you skipped over this in the first question, to whom is Job referring in v. 4b (in other words, what is the answer to "whose breath has come out from you?" What might Job be implying here?
- (c) In vs. 5-14 Job describes mysteries of the universe in awe-inspiring detail. What do we learn about God's power & sovereignty in vs. 5-6 & in v. 7?
- (d) *Family:* If you have the ability, show this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ya12I036lg&feature=related> in which he describes & shows pictures of the magnitude & complexities of space. You can also find other videos or pictures of amazing animals on YouTube if you would rather, or find a list of fascinating facts about our human body. The purpose is to supplement the list of mysteries found in Job 26 and cause your family to marvel at God's handiwork in creation.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 25:5-14.** As we continue to learn about God through Job's description of the mysteries of His creation, consider v. 8. What is Job saying here? What is the mystery he ponders?
- (b) In v. 9 the Hebrew word for "full moon" is a homonym with the Hebrew word for "throne" (in other words, they are two words that sound the same and are spelled the same but have different meanings, such as the English word "bow," which can be a tool with which to play a stringed instrument, a decoration made of ribbon which adorns a package, a weapon with which

to shoot arrows, or a verb meaning “to bend”). Which translation (“throne” or “full moon”) best fits the context of Job 26 & why do you choose it? Is Job’s meaning affected by the translation we choose?

(c) What are the “pillars of heaven” to which Job refers in v. 11, and why would they tremble at God’s rebuke (remember that this is poetry!).

(d) What do we learn about God’s character in v. 12-13? How has this characteristic been demonstrated?

(e) *Family*: Now summarize Job’s final speech (chapter 26) and record it on Job’s sheet. Spend some time reviewing each person’s sheet and discussing each one’s argument. How do they differ? How are they the same? What would you say about each one’s personality? How did each one’s argument progress with regard to emotion? With regard to their compassion toward Job (which was their original purpose in coming to see Job)? How did Job grow in his trust of God throughout his speeches?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read and meditate on Psalm 104.** God’s creative work should cause us to worship Him. We have studied several of the mysteries of God’s creation this week, and this Psalm describes many more. As you read & meditate, write down specific aspects of God’s creation that cause you to marvel at His character. Enter into a time of worship, giving praise to God for the wonders, beauty, & wisdom of His creation as it reflects His glory. This Psalm should cause you to delight in God as creator. When you finish meditating on Psalm 104, write a psalm of praise that contains your words of worship to the Lord.

(b) *Family*: **Read Psalm 104.** Your goal this day is to teach your children (or remind them, if this is not a new thought) to not only enjoy the beauty of God’s creation, but to reflect on the beauty of God’s character and His glory as they enjoy the beauty of His creation. You can read the entire Psalm, or read just parts of it to reflect on God’s character. Much of the Psalm shows us how God’s creation provides for His creatures (vs. 10-30), so these are very visual pictures of the way God creates what is good, and then sustains His created being by His good creation. This is the fuel for great praise from God’s people for His goodness, wisdom, grace, glory, kindness, and love!

DATE: April 3, 2011

PASSAGE: Job 25-26

The Speeches: Bildad vs. Job: Round 3

In Job 25-26 we find 2 speeches that conclude the third cycle of speeches between Job & his friends.

I. Bildad speaks:

A. God is sovereign (25:1-3).

B. Man is depraved (25:4-6).

II. Job speaks:

A. You, Bildad, have failed in your counsel (26:1-4).

B. God is sovereign.

1. Over death (26:5-6).

2. Over the heavens & the earth
(26:7-13).

C. God is unfathomable (26:14).