

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 22, 2011

Passage: Job 34-35

Memory Passage: Deuteronomy 32:4

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 34:1-9.** Who are the “wise men . . . who know” to whom Elihu is speaking in v. 2? Why does he address them?
- (b) Elihu quotes Job often, which proves he has listened well prior to speaking. Compare the following verses and decide if Elihu has quoted Job correctly: 5a with 9:15, 20; 10:15; 13:18. 5b with 27:2. 6a with 16:8. 6b with 6:4. Since Elihu is asking the wise men to “test” Job’s words and “choose what is right,” accurate quoting, both in words and context, is imperative.
- (c) Of what specifically is Elihu accusing Job in vs. 7-8? What is the scoffing that Job drinks like water (remember the context!)? Does Elihu quote Job correctly in v. 9 (compare 23:10-12; 21:14-16)? Does his accuracy affect his argument?
- (d) What do we learn from these verses about rightly evaluating one’s words? Is it proper to test the words of others? Are there times we should not test the words of others? How should we test our own words before we speak/write (consider not only what you say, but what you write as you use social media like blogging, commenting, tweeting, facebooking, etc.)?
- (e) *Family: Read Job 34:1-9.* Using your white board, evaluate whether or not Elihu has quoted Job correctly using the references cited in questions b & c above. Write down Elihu’s quote on one side of your board, and Job’s actual words on the other, and lead your family in a discussion of Elihu’s accuracy (consider both words and context). Then teach your family about the importance of testing our words, as well as the words of others, with regard to their accuracy with Scripture.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 34:10-22.** What purpose does the “therefore” in v. 10 accomplish? How does Elihu summarize his defense of God in v. 10-12? Why does he think he needs to make this defense? Are his claims different than what has been made already by Job’s 3 friends or the same? With which of Job’s words from prior speeches does Elihu interact in these 3 verses?
- (b) What does Elihu present as evidence in vs. 13-15 for the claims he has made about God? Is what he says true? What other Scriptures can you use to back up what Elihu has said in vs. 13-15?
- (c) What is the connection between Elihu’s 2 questions in v.17? What answer does Elihu expect to each one?
- (d) How do verses 16-22 bolster Elihu’s claim that God never perverts justice (v. 12)? What should be the proper response of a believer to the sovereign characteristics of God found in vs. 21-22? Should these truths bring us comfort or fear? Why?
- (e) *Family: Read Job 34:21-22 & Ps. 139:1-12.* Teach these wonderful, encouraging verses to your family. Emphasize the facts that God knows everything about us, knows every word we will say before we speak it, we can never be outside of God’s knowledge and reach, he is always leading us & holding us up, and darkness will never overwhelm us. Press the imagery used in vs.7-10 so your family understands that these verses really mean that there is no place we can comprehend in which God is not! Also assure them that they can never sin without God knowing it, so they never “get away with” anything!

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 34:21-37.** How would you summarize the primary point Elihu is making in vs. 21-25? What claims has Job made that Elihu might be countering with this truth (see 10:2-6 as one example)? Is Elihu correct in rebuking Job in this matter? Why or why not?
- (b) For what reason does God come against the wicked (v. 27)? How is it evident that these wicked men have turned aside from following God & disregarded His ways (v. 28)? Elihu was referring to wicked men who are judged by God, but if you are a believer you know that God will never find you guilty for your sin because of Christ’s righteousness credited to your account. But there are times that believers turn from the way of the Lord in specific areas and need to repent and turn back to him. Evaluate your own life for a moment and consider if there is any evidence that you have turned aside from following God and disregarded His ways. Read & pray to the Lord the repentance described in vs. 31-32. Write down ways that you will crucify these sins, trust again in Christ’s finished cross work, and begin to glorify God in these areas of current sinfulness.
- (c) With what assessment of Job does Elihu call the wise men to agree (vs. 34-35)? What evidence does Elihu give for his assessment (vs. 36-37)? Do you agree with this assessment? Why/why not?
- (d) *Family: Read Job 34:25-32.* Explain to your family the flow of thought in these verses (God judges wicked men because they have turned away from following Him and disregarded His ways, God is still a righteous judge even when he does not seem to hear or answer the cry of the poor & afflicted, and men who say God is unrighteous because of His silence should repent). Then **Read James 4:7-10** and teach your children how to humbly submit to God by repenting of sin and resisting Satan so that God exalts them at the proper time.

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

(a) **Read Job 35:1-8.** In v. 2b the Hebrew simply says, “My right before God.” So the words could mean, with the ESV, “It is my right before God” or with the NASB, “My righteousness is more than God’s.” Given the context it seems that the NASB is closer, but Elihu’s main thought is this: “Job, your claims of innocence are so strong that you seem to be claiming that, since God has not vindicated you, you are more righteous than God!” Has Elihu overstated Job’s claims? Why or why not?

(b) In verse 3 Elihu again quotes Job (cf. 7:20 & 9:29-31). Have you ever felt this way? Do you ever contemplate the success of the wicked and wonder why it makes any difference at all if you sin or not, and maybe even find yourself being envious of the wicked because of their prosperity & success? **Read Ps. 73** where the psalmist confesses these very things (vs. 3, 13-14) and write down how he came to terms with these facts (v. 16-17), what God’s ultimate action will be (vs. 18-19), what he (and you) were like when you questioned God and envied the wicked (vs. 20-22) and what his (and your) ultimate stance toward God should be (vs. 23-28). Be encouraged by your study of this Psalm and make efforts today to apply these truths.

(c) Summarize how Elihu begins to answer Job in vs. 4-8 (every “you” & “your” in vs. 4-8 are singular). Do you think he has heard Job correctly (see again 7:20 & 9:29-31)?

(d) *Family:* Ask you family: “Have you ever been jealous of or mad at someone who earned a reward or received a prize even though they cheated? Have you ever wondered why you should continue to act righteously since people who don’t act righteously often get rewarded?” Then **teach Ps. 73** to your family with these questions in mind and providing answers. If it is helpful, refer to the outline of this Psalm presented in question b.

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

(a) **Read Job 35:9-16.** Job has argued that God neglects times of judgment and as a result, wicked people continue to abuse and oppress the poor (24:1-12). How does Elihu answer this claim in vs. 9-13? How does Elihu relate this to Job (v. 14)?

(b) Elihu’s final condemnation of Job is that he does not rightly assess God’s silence and therefore his words are empty and without knowledge (vs. 15-16). Do you agree with Elihu? Why or why not?

(c) When God is silent in response to your prayers should this ever prompt you to evaluate your motives or methods of prayer? If so, how should you evaluate and what Scripture passages affect your answer?

(d) If, after you search your heart & motives, God is still silent, how should you respond? What lessons have you learned from Job & Elihu to help you grow in this area?

(e) *Family:* **Read Deut 32:4** (this week’s memory verse). Spend time helping your family memorize this, teaching the truths presented in the verses as you memorize. Also use Ps. 18:2, 30-32 to help your family understand further what is meant by God being our “Rock,” and how his perfection, justice & faithfulness relate to our holiness & righteous living.

**DATE: May 22 , 2011**

**PASSAGE: Job 34-35**

*Elihu: The Righteous Know God is Just*