

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 19, 2011

Passage: Job 42:7-17

Memory Passage: Job 42:10

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 42:7-17.** In what ways have the three friends not spoken of God what is right? Why does this cause God's anger to burn against them?
- (b) Are you surprised that God says that Job *has* spoken what is right concerning God? Can you think of instances where Job did not speak right concerning God (and you should be able to)? Since God is not a liar, how do you explain His words?
- (c) What do you think the consequences would be for Job's friends if the book stopped at 42:7 considering God said His anger burned against them? What does a person (any person) need to do to rouse this kind of anger in God, and what will be the consequences if nothing further happens?
- (d) Think of a time when you have spoken wrongly about God, or acted in a way that denied His grace, promises, or any aspect of His character. How did God respond to you? How did you respond to God? What advice would you give to someone who is speaking wrongly of God or living in such a way that denies His presence in his or her life?
- (e) *Family:* Have your family look back to the summary sheet they made of Job's speeches in previous lessons. Ask, "Do you think Job ever spoke wrongly about God?" If they can't come up with an answer, tell them that he did and point them to some passages in which this happened. Then **Read Job 42:7** and ask, "Then why did God say that Job never spoke wrongly of Him?" Then explain that Job was always searching for truth about God, never denied Him, always tried to reconcile God's justice with what He saw but never fully denied His justice, and when God confronted Job with His own majesty & power & mercy Job repented, which the 3 friends never did.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 42:7-17.** What is the purpose of the sacrifice God demands from the 3 friends? What is the purpose of Job's prayer? According to v. 8, on what basis will God deal with Job's three friends if Job or the friends fail to act according to God's commands?
- (b) What did God do when Job & his 3 friends obeyed Him? What was accomplished? What was Yahweh's role?
- (c) Why did God accept Job's prayer? Would you have prayed for these three men (while you were still suffering!) considering all they said to you? What does this tell us about Job? What does your response reveal about yourself?
- (d) *Family:* This lesson is similar to last night's but not exactly the same. Have your family read through their summary of each of the 3 friends' speeches and list the things that they find to be speaking wrongly about God. Record these on your white board. Then, have someone in your family read the last verse from each of the 3 friends' & Job's speeches (20:29 22:30, 25:6, 42:6) and ask, "What is the difference between the last words of each of these people." (Only Job repented). Teach your family that God's rebuke of the 3 friends and acceptance of Job's prayer on their behalf was because only Job repented and submitted to God and His sovereign ways. Highlight the importance of repentance & submission in their lives as well.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 3:21-26 & Heb. 9:23-10:4.** According to Heb. 9:23-10:4, what are the differences between the OT sacrifices and Christ's sacrifice? How do the results of these two sacrifices differ?
- (b) According to Rom. 3:21-26, why was a sacrifice needed? What does "propitiation" mean and why was the blood of Christ needed? What did this propitiation accomplish and for whom was it accomplished?
- (c) What was the purpose of this sacrifice (vs. 25-26, i.e. what did it "show")? Why was this important from God's standpoint (v. 26)?
- (d) Considering Job 42:7-9 and what you learned from Rom. 3 & Heb. 9-10, explain why Job is a type of Christ (A "type" in theology is a person, event or thing that points forward to or foreshadows something or someone else, which is referred to as the "antitype.")
- (e) *Family:* Take your family through an abbreviated, simplified (if needed) version of questions a-d above.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 4:10-17.** Do you think Job would have been restored had he not prayed for his friends? Why/why not?

(b) Why do you think everyone showed up to give Job “sympathy & comfort” *after* he had been restored? Were they right in waiting? Why/why not? What do you learn about dealing with suffering people by their example?

(c) Do you think that God’s blessing of Job proves or disproves the theology of retributive justice we have learned about throughout Job (i.e. blessings are always and without exception given to the righteous and withheld from the unrighteous), and why do you answer in the way that you do?

(d) How do you explain the fact that all of Job’s material blessings were doubled but the number of his sons & daughters were not? Often when names are mentioned in this manner there is a significance involved. Do you see any significance in the names of Job’s beautiful daughters (Jemimah means “dove” or possibly “light,” Keziah means “cassia,” which is an aromatic, cinnamon-like spice, and Keren-happuch means “horn of eye paint” and refers to a desirable container of black eye shadow)?

(e) *Family: Read Job 42:10-17.* As you teach these verses to your family, you might have them draw a picture of what is being described in Job’s restoration. Remember to point out that God’s blessings were abundant, and that sometimes there are people who suffer that do not have everything restored like Job, but that all believers will be eternally, abundantly blessed in the age to come no matter how much they suffered in this life. You can also **read & teach Matt. 5:2-12; 2 Cor. 4:16-18.**

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Reflect for a moment on what you have learned from your study of Job during the last 20 weeks (yes, it has only been 20 weeks ☺). Write down what you have learned about suffering, right use of doctrine, counseling, debating doctrine, caring for others, God’s sovereignty, God’s justice, God’s mercy, God’s blessings, trust, God as redeemer, reconciliation, obedience, responding/talking to God & forgiveness. There are more I could mention so you might have others!

(b) What was the most important lesson you learned? As you contemplated what you learned in question (a), are there lessons and applications that you thought were important when you learned them but have already forgotten? If so, write them down now so you can return to them in the coming week for review and implementation.

(c) What ways do you think differently about the book of Job now than when you started this study? How would you summarize this book in one or two sentences?

(d) *Family:* Using your white board and all of the notes your family has collected during our study, use questions (a) & (b) above to conclude your study. You might need to narrow the list, and you might need to stir the memory of your family by reviewing what we have learned about each of these topics, but keep pressing on to get good conversation by your questions!

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The Mercy of God: Vindication & Blessing