

The purpose of this weekly discussion guide is merely to be a framework that you use in your small group, family, or personal devotion to help you apply the sermon to your life, live it out more effectively and incorporate the truths in ‘real life.’ Feel free to use it as you wish, in its entirety or in bits and pieces.....for the glory of God.

As we close the study of Job, we long for resolution, reconciliation and restoration of all that has gone on in Job’s life. It is a longing of our hearts because if we find these, then we find explanation for the trials in our own lives. We find that purpose has been accomplished. We need to see that the ‘eclipsing answer’ of last week applies to us. Suffering’s Ultimate Ends calls us to gaze past today’s suffering and see how the God of the universe, our own heavenly Father finishes the story of our suffering.

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” Romans 8:16

God cares about our horizontal relationships with others, as well as our vertical relationship with Him. Part of the ‘glory that is to be revealed in us’ is how we ‘proclaim Him to others’ in our relationships, no matter how others have wronged us.

1. Why is it important that God calls Eliphaz and his friends to ‘go to Job’ and perform their offerings? Why not in private, just before God Himself? Was it just to humiliate them? (The purpose is so that Job’s relationships are restored with them.)
2. What is significant about God claiming that Job will pray for his friends, and specifically that Job will pray that God not deal with them according to their folly? What does this say about us being bitter and resentful about those who have sinned against us?
3. What do you think the friendships would look like between Job and his three friends after this occurred and after this huge trial came to an end for Job? What should have characterized their friendships now that everything was over?
4. In Job 42:10, the Word says that when Job had prayed for his friends (that is, when he had dealt with any bitterness, resentment and forgiveness issues), that God restored the fortunes of Job? How should we think of reconciliation with our brothers in this light?
5. What is significant about Job’s brothers and sisters coming to him, those who had known him before, and comforting him, expressing sympathy and each of them bringing him a piece of money and a ring of gold? (It is significant because we haven’t really heard of Job’s brothers and sisters until now. God is restoring not just fortune, but relationships).
6. In your suffering, are there those who have caused it or tried to explain it away unbiblically that you need to be reconciled to? Are you praying for those people prayers that honor God, prayers of mercy and grace for them?

7. Have you caused someone's suffering? Have you done everything you can do to be at peace with them? "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all", it says in Romans 12:18. Where and with whom do you need to act on this?

God cares that we get what He intended for us in our trials and suffering. He wants us to not focus on our suffering, but on Him. Part of 'the glory that is to be revealed in us' is in our response to whatever God wants to do in our lives, regardless of whether He gives or takes away.

8. "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted." What has Job gained in his understanding of God, that did not exist before? (It has been made real to him that God owns our suffering, and will not waste it. He has seen that suffering is actually part of God's plan).
9. What do we learn about our response when we question Him and cling to our questioning of Him in Job 42: 5, 6? What is Job repenting of exactly? (Job did not trust that God had purpose in his suffering and that his righteousness should have made him exempt of it).
10. Where do you need to stop clinging to 'Why?' and begin camping on 'Who?'. Have you or do you think that your lifestyle of righteousness makes you exempt from God doing what He wants with you? Where might you need to repent of any attitudes you have had toward God?

Lastly, part of the 'glory that is to be revealed in us' is not only in our response to our suffering, and being right with those who watch if, but also getting our eyes off of it and onto what the ultimate end is?

11. Why does 'the empty tomb scream hope', as you endure suffering?
12. What encourages you most about hearing 'God's gonna fix it?' What does this phrase ultimately point to? (It points to God, not you, and not your suffering.)
13. The ultimate end of Job, and our suffering is that the Who? is the Why? Your trial, your heartache, your tears are supposed to culminate in looking to Jesus. He is the reason. It is 'Who? forever', as Pastor Mark put it. Our hope is not in this world, but He who created it and He who fashions a trial just for you, to train your eyes to see Him. In fact, so you can say 'I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;'. How are you being trained now to make this real in your life?

14. What is your response as you heard the passages of Revelation read, knowing that God will bring resolution and restoration of all things?
15. What do you want in your suffering? What does your heart scream for in the midst of it? What will it take for you to pass the test in current trials or future trials? Where do you want your eyes to focus and what do you want to yearn for as God navigates you through the difficulties?

Other Scriptures to Meditate on:

1 Corinthians 9:24, 25

James 4:13-15

Hebrews 12: 1, 2

Hebrews 12:14

Colossians 1: 24, 25

1 John 2:15-17

1 John 3:1-3

Hebrews 12:11

Romans 8: 28, 29

James 1: 2-4

Philippians 1:6

1 Peter 1:6-8