



Job Small Group Discussion Questions

- Have someone in your group read Job 1:1-12. What do we learn about Job's character in these verses? What do we learn about God's perspective on Job?
- The opening scene of Job gives us a rare glimpse into a conversation between God and Satan about Job. What stands out to you about this interaction?
 - What does it tell us about God's sovereignty that He permits Satan to test Job?
 - Why do you think God points out Job to Satan in the first place?
 - Ben said that Satan is trying to prove that "faith without favor is dead." How does genuine faith in God compare to faith that simply likes what God provides?
 - How might understanding God's sovereignty change how we respond to difficult circumstances in our lives?
- Job 1:1 describes Job as "blameless and upright," yet he still experiences tremendous suffering. How does this challenge common assumptions about the relationship between righteousness and blessing?
 - Ben preached that the opening verses of Job demonstrate the reality that God's relationship to suffering is complex. What do these verses seem to teach us about God's relationship to suffering?

- We often hear people say that good people should not suffer. Why do we assume that good people should be protected from suffering?
- What does the gospel say about the relationship of someone's goodness to suffering?
- How might an understanding of the complexity of suffering help us minister to others who are suffering?
- Ben said that one thing we do see about suffering here is that God does permit suffering, but He always does so for a purpose. How does the reality that God permits suffering while remaining sovereign challenge or comfort you?
- How do we endure in suffering even if we're not given the clear write-up about the purpose for our suffering?
- In Job 1:13-22, we see Job's response to devastating loss. What characterizes his response? How does he process his grief?
 - Job says, "The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD" (1:21). What does this statement reveal about Job's understanding of God?
 - How does Job's immediate response to suffering either challenge or encourage you?
 - What makes it difficult to bless God's name in the midst of personal tragedy?
 - When have you seen someone respond to suffering in a way that honored God? What impact did this have on you?
 - Ben said that suffering makes or breaks us. How do we see this in the story of Job?
 - How can we respond to suffering in a way that leads us closer to God instead of further away from Him?
- Ben noted the brutality of suffering in Job 2-37. Why is it important that the Bible includes such raw expressions of pain and questioning?

- Job 3:1 says, "After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth." How does this honest expression of despair challenge our notions of "appropriate" ways to talk to God?
- What might we learn from Job about bringing our real emotions to God in prayer?
- Ben said that we want to *trust* God and His character when we suffer; at what point do our prayers go from *lament* and *honesty* to *distrust*?
- Ben also said that one of the worst things we can do in times of suffering is to suppress our grief and emotion. How does suppressing grief or putting on a "spiritual face" during suffering affect our relationship with God and others?
- What are some practical ways we can create space for honest lament in our small group?
- In chapter 38, God finally responds to Job, not by explaining his suffering but by revealing Himself. Why do you think God responds this way?
 - God asks Job a series of questions about creation that Job cannot answer. What is God teaching Job through these questions?
 - What does God's response reveal about the limitations of human understanding?
 - How is God's presence itself an answer to suffering, even when we don't get explanations for our suffering?
 - When have you experienced God's presence as an answer to your questions or pain?
 - What does it look like to intentionally pursue God's presence during seasons of suffering?

- In Job 19:25-27, Job makes a profound statement of faith: "I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth." How does Job maintain this confidence despite his circumstances?
 - What does it mean for us today to know that our Redeemer lives, even in the midst of suffering?
 - How does this hope in a living Redeemer differ from simply hoping things will get better?
 - When have you experienced the reality of a living Redeemer in your own suffering?
 - How can we help each other remember this truth when circumstances seem to contradict it?
- Based on what we've learned from Job, what is one way you can grow in how you respond to suffering in your own life? How might God be inviting you to trust Him more deeply through current or future trials?