

BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Look over the suggested questions to the right. Ask God to guide you to the ones that will work best for your group.
- Be prepared to get the discussion going if your group if they're not feeling it today.
- Don't feel like you have to know all there is to know about scripture. Use this week's study notes to prepare yourself. But, if something arises that you can't answer, tell your group, "That's a great question. I'll research that and get back with you." Then, email eddie. mosley@lifepointchurch.org for help.

THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Job seemingly had everything- wife, kids, wealth, security. But he lost it all. When his friends and even his wife encouraged him to walk away from God, Job stood firm in his faith, recognizing that God had a plan for redemption in his life.

TO PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK:

Next week we will complete reading Job and then dive into Genesis 12-26. In those passages we will see how God chose Abraham and blessed him so he could be a blessing to the nations.

AS YOU READ...

...notice the many ways God blessed Abraham. Who comes to mind that you can be a blessing to next week? What parts of Abraham's should you model your story after? What parts should you not model?

CONNECT

(10 min.)

Choose one of the following questions to begin your time together as a group. If your group has been together longer, you may want to skip question 1 in favor of question 2.

1. **What was the best Christmas present you ever received?**
2. **What's the toughest thing you or your family have ever been through? Why? How did you deal with the pain?**

EXPLORE

(40 min.)

Say something like, "Today we're going to look at Job's life and how suffering actually brought about great gain in his life." Then guide your group through these questions...

3. **If you attended worship this week, what statement or experience stood out to you? What stood out during last week's reading?**

(Leader: Take some time to discuss any questions that may have arisen as your members read through

4. **In Job 1:12 and 2:5-6, Satan basically asks God for permission to cause harm to Job. What does this indicate about God's control over Satan?**
5. **Read Job 5:17-18. What assumptions were Jobs friends making about the reason for his suffering? What does God's rebuke of them in Job 42:7 reveal about their assumptions?**
6. **Job's friends were just trying to help their hurting friend. But they were wrong. Why do we often say things contrary to God's Word in an effort to comfort someone who is suffering?** (ex. "God will never put more on you than you can stand." See study notes for 1 Corinthians 10:13 for more.)
7. **How does Job's statement in Job 19:23-27. reveal his faith in the coming Messiah?**
8. **Read Paul's description of the doctrine of the providence of God in Ephesians 1:11. In Job 37:6-13, Job gives us evidence that he recognizes God's providence in all the suffering he had experienced. Read it. Then discuss,**

TRANSFORM

(10 min.)

Say something like. "Today we've seen that it is not our sin that brings calamity in our lives. Rather, it is the result of living in a broken world. However, God orchestrates all things to bring glory to Himself." Then pose the following question to bring it all together.

9. **How do you think suffering in the life of a believer can bring glory to God?**

Close by reminding your group of how to be prepared for next week's session. (See box on left.) Then pray together.

This Week's Study Notes:

Who was Job?

Job was an Arabian patriarch who resided in the land of Uz. While living in the midst of great prosperity, he was suddenly overwhelmed by a series of sore trials that fell upon him. Amid all his sufferings he maintained his integrity. Once more God visited him with the rich tokens of his goodness and even greater prosperity than he had enjoyed before. He survived the period of trial for one hundred and forty years, and died in a good old age, an example to succeeding generations of integrity (Ezekiel 14:14, 20) and of submissive patience under the sorest calamities (James 5:11). His history, so far as it is known, is recorded in his book.

General Notes

Doctrine of the Providence of God:

The reference to that preservation, care and government which God exercises over all things He has created, in order that they may accomplish the ends for which they were created

Scripture Notes

Job 1:12

God limited Satan's power so that the devil could not act without God's permission. Satan in arrogance believed this contest was between equals, but Satan was and is always under God's authority and control.

Job 2:5-6

Satan pushes Job to his breaking point. Satan reasoned that if losing his children and wealth didn't break Job, personal, physical suffering would. Satan's method is usually to find our weakest spot.

Only one restriction kept Satan from going all the way. God was still sovereign, even on Job's worst day. But here we can distinguish between God's perfect will and divine permission.

Job 5:17-18

Referring to God as 'almighty' is found 31 times in the book of Job and only 17 times in the rest of the Old Testament.

Job 19:23-27

From the bottom, Job suddenly rallies to express confidence. His sorry situation had caused him to rely on God alone for deliverance (v. 26).

Job 37:16-13

Elihu established God's power and sovereignty over nature. God uses power to get people's attention (v. 7). God's awesome works are those of love (v. 13). This focus on nature sets the reader up for God's own words about creation in chapters 38–41. See also 37:14-18.

Job 42:7-9

Job profited from his persistence—he never cursed God and never succumbed to evil. Meanwhile, his friends were held accountable for their accusations. Now the one they had belittled, graciously blessed and restored them (v. 9).

God lavished the well-deserved title of, "my servant," on Job (1:8; 2:3). Could God have been distinguishing Job from his friends who had distorted God's intention and therefore not acted as His servants?

1 Corinthians 10:13:

Paul encourages the Corinthians to stand firm by reminding them that when Christians resist sin they do so in the knowledge that they will be able to endure. temptation. Paul has identified various temptations that Israel faced: the temptation of idolatry, the temptation to commit sexual immorality, the temptation to test God, and the temptation to grumble about where God led them. To be tempted is to be tested. Facing the choice of deserting God's will or doing God's will, the person must either resist or yield. Temptation is not sin. Yielding is a way of escape. Temptation is not unusual or unexpected. Resisting it is not pleasant, but the Christian can do it with God's help. This text is not speaking of suffering, but temptation.

