

11-19-25 Small Group Guide

Small Group Study Guide

****Series:**** Job - Finding Hope in Suffering

****Topic:**** Standing Firm with God's Promises When Life Hurts

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to His truth, and pray specifically for any group members who may be struggling with difficulties right now.

Icebreaker (10 minutes)

****Question:**** Share about a time when you felt like Job—when life seemed unfair and you struggled to understand what God was doing. How did you get through it?

Scripture Reading (10 minutes)

Read together: ****Job 8:1-9:35**** (or selected portions)

Also reference:

- John 10:10
- Romans 8:28-39
- Matthew 6:25-34

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. ****Job Didn't Have What We Have****

- Job lacked the complete revelation of God's character

- He didn't have Jesus as Savior and Intercessor
- He didn't have the Holy Spirit as Comforter
- He didn't have the written promises we possess in Scripture

2. **The Battle Between Truth and Feelings**

- Our feelings lie to us about 90% of the time
- Satan tries to snatch away God's truth before it can take root
- We must anchor ourselves to God's character: gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in love

3. **We Have Powerful Weapons**

- Jesus intercedes for us at God's right hand (Romans 8:34)
- The Holy Spirit lives within us and prays for us
- God's Word equips us to fight spiritual battles
- Nothing can separate us from God's love (Romans 8:38-39)

Discussion Questions (30-40 minutes)

Understanding the Text

1. In Job 8-9, how do you see Job's friends trying to help him? What did they get right? What did they miss?

2. Job says in 9:32-33, "If only there were someone to arbitrate between us." How does Jesus fulfill this role that Job longed for?

Personal Reflection

3. The sermon asked: "How well do you know God?" On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your knowledge of God's character? What could help you know Him better?

4. When facing difficulties, do you tend to be more of a "warrior" or a "worrier"? What percentage of your time is spent in each?

5. Which is more real to you in hard times—your feelings or God's promises?

Why do you think that is?

Going Deeper

6. The sermon mentioned that we often "hold things to ourselves" rather than sharing our faith journey with others. Why do you think Christians struggle to talk about God with each other?

7. Read Romans 8:31-39 together. Which verse in this passage speaks most powerfully to you right now? Why?

8. The preacher said, "Faith is in our mind. It's what we believe, not because we've seen, but because we've read or Jesus said." How can we strengthen our faith when we can't "feel" God's presence?

Practical Applications (15-20 minutes)

This Week's Challenge

Choose one or more of these action steps:

Option 1: Build Your Arsenal

- Memorize one key verse this week (suggestions: Romans 8:31, Romans 8:38-39, or John 10:10)
- Write it on a card and place it where you'll see it daily
- Share with the group next week how this verse helped you

Option 2: Practice Thankfulness

- Each day, write down 3 things you're thankful for
- When negative thoughts come, deliberately replace them with thanksgiving
- Notice how this affects your perspective

Option 3: Share Your Story

- Identify one person (Christian or non-Christian) you can encourage this week

- Share how God has helped you through a difficult time
- Use Scripture to point them to hope in Christ

****Option 4: Study God's Character****

- Read through the Psalms this week, highlighting every description of God's character
- Create a list of who God is (gracious, compassionate, faithful, etc.)
- When doubts come, read your list aloud

Accountability Questions

- What specific struggle are you facing right now where you need to apply God's promises?
- Which promise from Scripture will you cling to this week?
- Who in this group can you text when you're struggling to believe truth over feelings?

Group Ministry Time (15-20 minutes)

****Prayer Focus:****

- Pray for group members facing Job-like situations
- Pray for stronger faith to believe God's promises over our feelings
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to make Scripture come alive in our daily lives
- Pray for courage to share our faith journey with others

****Specific Needs:****

Take time to share specific prayer requests and pray for one another.

Closing Reflection

****Key Quote from Sermon:****

****"If God is for us, who can be against me? Jesus is interceding for us at the right hand of God. Nothing can separate me from the love of God."***

****Final Thought:****

Job suffered without the promises we have. We have Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the complete Word of God. The question isn't whether God will be faithful—He always is. The question is: Will we choose to believe His truth when our feelings tell us otherwise?

For Next Week

- Read Job chapters 10-14
- Reflect on how you applied this week's challenge
- Come prepared to share one way God's Word spoke to you during the week

Additional Resources

- ****For Further Study:**** Ephesians 6:10-18 (Armor of God)
- ****Recommended Reading:**** "Battlefield of the Mind" by Joyce Meyer
- ****Memory Verse:**** Romans 8:38-39