

12-3-25 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide: Job's Job - Understanding Faith in Suffering

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by asking God to help group members be honest about their struggles, open to correction, and willing to grow deeper in their knowledge of Him.

Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Question: Share about a time when you felt like Job—when life seemed unfair and you questioned why God was allowing something difficult to happen. How did you process those feelings?

Key Themes from the Sermon

1. What We Believe vs. What We Feel

The pastor emphasized examining three questions:

What do I believe?

What do I know?

What do I think/feel?

Discussion Questions:

How do your emotions sometimes override what you know to be true about God?

Can you think of a biblical truth you believe intellectually but struggle to trust emotionally during hard times?

Job accused God of treating him unfairly while forgetting God's past blessings. When have you done something similar?

2. The Danger of Keeping Score

Job forgot all the good times when he was in pain. We do the same—in marriages, friendships, and with God.

Discussion Questions:

Why is it easier to remember wrongs than rights when we're hurting?

How does "keeping score" damage our relationships with others and with God?

What would change if we kept better track of God's faithfulness in our lives?

3. Making Judgments Without Full Knowledge

Job's friends made assumptions about why he was suffering. We often do the same with people around us.

Discussion Questions:

Have you ever made assumptions about someone's situation only to find out you were wrong?

How can we balance being discerning with being judgmental?

What does it look like to "relate with people" in Scripture rather than just judge them?

4. The Ministry of Bold Love

Zophar stepped in to challenge Job, even though it was uncomfortable. Sometimes love requires difficult conversations.

Discussion Questions:

When is it appropriate to "lance the wound" in someone's life versus just sitting with them in pain?

Have you ever had someone love you enough to tell you a hard truth? What was that like?

What prevents us from being that person for others? (Fear of rejection, discomfort, uncertainty, etc.)

5. God Doesn't Treat Us as Our Sins Deserve

Throughout Job's complaints, the pastor reminded us that we should be grateful God shows mercy.

Discussion Questions:

Job said, "Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him" (Job 13:15). What does this level of faith look like practically?

How does remembering God's mercy change how we respond to suffering?

Read Psalm 73:16-17. What changed for the psalmist when he "entered the sanctuary of God"?

Key Takeaways

Our logic isn't always logical - We need God's Word, not just our feelings, to guide us.

Conviction without consistency is meaningless - Job had beliefs but struggled to maintain them under pressure.

We tend to project our earthly experiences onto God - Just because earthly parents rewarded good and punished bad doesn't mean God operates the same way.

The church is meant to be a body - We need each other, even (especially) when it's uncomfortable.

Childlike faith includes adventure and acceptance - We should approach God and His people with curiosity, not cynicism.

Practical Applications

Personal Reflection

This Week: Journal about these questions:

What do I really believe about God's character?

Where am I operating on feelings rather than faith?

What past blessings have I forgotten because of current pain?

Relational Challenge

This Week:

Sit with someone different at church or invite someone you don't know well to coffee

Reach out to someone who is suffering—not to fix them, but to be present with them

If appropriate, have a difficult conversation with someone you love who needs correction

Spiritual Discipline

This Week:

Read Job chapters 1-2 to remember what God said about Job before the suffering began

Memorize Job 13:15 - "Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him"

Spend time in "the sanctuary" (prayer/worship) when you're tempted to envy others or question God's fairness

Group Accountability

Share one specific way you want to grow based on this sermon. Ask someone in the group to check in with you about it before next meeting.

Closing Discussion (15 minutes)

Read Psalm 73:23-28 together

What stands out to you from this passage?

How can we help each other maintain this perspective when life feels unfair?

What would it look like for our group to be a "sanctuary" where people can gain proper perspective?

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Pray specifically for:

Those in the group currently experiencing suffering or confusion

Wisdom to know when to speak and when to be silent with hurting people
Hearts that trust God's character even when circumstances are painful
The courage to have difficult conversations when love requires it
Gratitude for God's mercy that doesn't treat us as our sins deserve
For Next Week

Consider reading Job chapters 14-21 before the next gathering to continue following Job's journey and prepare for the next sermon in this series.