

CAC LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Where Were You? – October 22, 2023

Series Overview: Where Were You?

Can God alone satisfy you? This question matters for anyone who pursues God because everyone experiences adversity in some way in their life. We all, at some point, find ourselves in the midst of difficult times – currently, recently, or looming on the horizon. When we go through pain and suffering, we often wonder, “God, where were you?” As we dive into Job’s story, we’re eager to find an answer to that question, knowing that it’s something we’ve all asked in our own lives. As you wrestle with it, you are encouraged to find a friend in Job, and you will discover you do not wrestle alone.

Big Idea: Why do you follow God?

- Ice Breaker:
 - What are some of your “flashbulb memories”?
 - Job is believed to be the oldest book in the Bible. What is the oldest possession you own?

Key Points

Take a few minutes to review the key points from this week’s sermon.

- Job deals with the universal, timeless question of evil and suffering.
- God is not the source of evil. God is the source of good.
- Tragedy often stems from broken people, broken nature, or supernatural power.
- There are no easy answers to suffering. We may suffer and never find out why.
- Job did not judge God’s goodness and control by the events of his life. He judged the events of his life by God’s goodness and control.

Discussion Questions

Based on the sermon, discuss the questions below.

- What was your biggest takeaway? What stuck out the most or moved you on a personal level?
- Did anything bother you? What questions did you have?
- What would you like to learn/study more about?

Making it Personal

Review with your group the impact this week’s sermon made on you personally.

- What situation in your life are you facing or have you faced that brings this topic to life and makes it real to you?
- When bad things happen, what is your initial response? Complain and blame or praise?
- Have you ever experienced a time when you, like Job, faced adversity on top of adversity? Did your feelings about God change during those times?
- During difficult times, is it harder for you to have faith that God is good or that God is in control?
- What have you experienced in life that was trying at the time but ultimately benefitted you? Or what seemed like a wonderful blessing at first, then ended up being the opposite of what you thought?

Scripture Review

Revisit some of the scripture passages from this week and discuss the questions below.

- Job 1-2
- How does Job respond to the tragedies that befall him? How would you have responded?

- What does Job's response reveal about his character?
- Why do you think Job's wife was never touched?

Diving Deeper

Use the verses below to dive into other passages of scripture that relate to the primary scripture passage from this week's sermon.

Old Testament

- Isaiah 55:8-9, Psalm 100:5, Proverbs 3:5-6, Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 112:7, Daniel 3:16-18

How do these scripture passages align with the scripture from the sermon? Do you see any contradictions between passages? If so, can you explain why this is?

New Testament

- Romans 8:28, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, John 14:27, 2 Timothy 4:18, James 1:2-4

How do these scripture passages align with the scripture from the sermon? Do you see any contradictions between passages? If so, can you explain why this is?

Application & Action

It is important to take the knowledge you gain and see how it can become an actionable step that the Holy Spirit can use to produce transformation in your life.

Job did not judge God's goodness and control by the events of his life. He judged the events of his life by God's goodness and control.

- How can you practically shift your perspective to align with Job's approach, judging life's events by God's goodness and control, even in the face of trials?
- Consider the significance of faith in maintaining a perspective that centers on God's goodness and control during difficult times. What steps can you take to strengthen your faith and more effectively navigate life's challenges?
- Are there any specific Bible verses that have helped you see God's goodness and control in the midst of suffering or adversity? Share those with your group.
- Think about practical ways you can integrate the perspective of judging life's events by God's goodness and control into your daily life and decision making. What changes can you make to live this out more intentionally?

Two-minute Takeaway

In response to this week's message, commit to taking two minutes each day to take a step closer to God.

We don't follow God because life is good. We follow God because of who He is, and He is good. Pastor Joe issued a challenge to read one chapter of Job per day. A short devotional has been created to accompany the reading. Sign up to receive the devotional via text each morning by texting "JobDevo" to 94000. You can also view the devotional at www.butlercac.org/job.

Prayer

Close your group time together with prayer.