

# CAC LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

## Where Were You? Job & Gratitude – November 19, 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: Walking in grief and gratitude

- Icebreaker: What is your favorite combination of foods that seem like they shouldn’t go together but are actually delicious?

### Key Points

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

- There is a way to walk in both grief and gratitude through a fundamental trust in God.
- Job’s initial grief is over what he has lost, but after encountering God, it shifts to grief over his failure to recognize what he still had: God.
- Jesus sets the ultimate example of what it looks like to trust God and walk in both gratitude and grief.
- Worship can be a step of gratitude in the midst of grief.

### 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 your personally.*

- What are 5 things right now you can be grateful for?
- Have you experienced a time, possibly at a wedding or funeral, where you experienced both gratitude and grief?
- Has your faith ever been strengthened by witnessing someone express trust in God in the midst of their grief?
- How did this quote impact you? “Trusting God is believing if we knew what God knows, we would ask for exactly what He gives us.”
- Do you remember a time when you were grieving, and someone said or did something that helped shift your perspective, bringing gratitude into your grief?

### Scripture Review

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

- Job 2:8, Job 38:32-33, Job 40:12-14, Job 42:5-6, Job 13:15-16, Job 1:20-21
- What reasons do you think Job would give for his trust in God before he lost everything (before chapter 1), as he lost everything (chapter 1-37), after hearing from God (chapter 42), and after having everything restored (chapter 42:10)? Do you think this would be different if chapters 1-37 never happened in Job’s life?

## **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**

- Psalm 23:4, Psalm 28:7, 2 Samuel 22:31, Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 106:1, Genesis 50:19

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**

- Luke 22:17-19, Philippians 4:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Hebrews 12:28-29, 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's circumstances didn't change immediately, but his perspective changed drastically after encountering God – an uncommon experience for people of his time. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection gave those who follow him the opportunity to consistently experience His presence. Like Job, when we encounter God and lean into his presence, our perspective changes and our trust in Him grows. As a result, when faced with moments of grief, we can rely on a strengthened foundation of trust in God to sustain us.

- What steps do you take on a regular basis to spend time in God's presence?
- Are there additional steps could you take to experience God regularly so your trust in him grows?
- How can you practice gratitude every day by recognizing and appreciating both big and small blessings, ultimately changing your perspective and strengthening your trust in God's goodness?
- Who can you surround yourself with that will be an encouragement to you in this area?
- How can you incorporate times of worship into your day as an active step toward expressing gratitude and trust in God?

## **Two-minute Takeaway**

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

At the beginning of this series, Pastor Joe issued a challenge to read one chapter of Job per day. A short devotional has been created to accompany the reading, and it's not too late to start. Sign up to receive the devotional via text each morning by texting "JobDevo" to 94000. You can also find view the devotional at [www.butlercac.org/job](http://www.butlercac.org/job).

## **Prayer**

*Close your group time together with prayer.*