



NAC-USA
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

Job is Noticed
and Tried

Job's Friends
Offer Their
Opinions

Job's
Honesty
with God

God
Responds to
and Restores
Job

MIDWEEK GUIDE

2016

August

Your small group does not need to answer every question provided in the Midweek guides. There are a range of questions so that each group can answer questions that are applicable to them and that they are comfortable with. Also, take your time with discussing the questions and don't feel the need to rush through them in order to answer every one.

2016 August MIDWEEK GUIDE

Session 1: Job is Noticed and Tried

Bible References

Job 1, 2

Romans 8:28

Jeremiah 29:11

1. What do you know about the story of Job? Before we discuss this book of the Bible for a whole month, what do you think that you can learn from Job?

2. How has your relationship with God changed through the ups and downs of life?

3. What does it mean to you to worship God during the good days and the dark days? What is different about our worship during *those* days?

4. Why is it easier to go to our friends for counsel during difficult times rather than talk to God?

Going Deeper

The book of Job is framed by a short story in Chapters 1 and 2 and Chapter 42, a prose narrative with its own characters, conflict, climax, and conclusion. Most of the book is written in poetry, presented as a direct speech of Job, his companions, and God. Whether this narrative is an event or a parable, it is in the Bible and we can learn from it.

5. How does the story change for you knowing that Job is “blameless and upright”?

6. Why do you think God allows Satan to challenge Job?

7. What three things do you value the most in your life? If you lost those three things, how do you imagine that would affect your relationship with God?

8. Why do you think that we, as humans, often try to put conditions on how we think God should act?

9. PERSONAL STUDY: Read Romans 8:18-38. What encouragement do you find from these verses? Write down a few key phrases that uplift you. Pick a passage to memorize that you can recall when you find yourself struggling.

Session 2: Job's Friends Offer Their Opinions

1. Have you ever thought that the bad things in life happened because God was punishing you for your mistakes?

2. Our family and friends sometimes offer their opinion on everything that is going on in our life. How can you remain focused on Jesus if these opinions begin to distract you from Him?

Bible References

Job 2 – 38

Psalm 119:71

Hebrews 12:6, 10

3. Describe a time when you journeyed through challenging days and grew in your relationship with God as a result of them. What did you learn about yourself and God during that time?

4. During days of suffering have you ever felt compelled to turn away from God? What compelled you to return to prayer?

5. What do you expect of your friends when you go to them during trials you experience?

6. Why did Job's friends respond the way they did?

7. Why is it sometimes best to be present but silent when trying to support a friend through tragedy?

8. When Elihu speaks, he contradicts Job and his 3 friends about their argument on why Job is being put through these trials. What about Elihu's message was different than that of Job's other friends?

9. Although Job's friends seem to have said the wrong things when trying to "comfort" him, can you think of time in your life when a friend said or did the right things? Please share your experiences with the group.

Session 3: Job's Honesty with God

Bible References

Job 1:8, 30:20-23, 42:2-3 & 7

Philippians 4:4

Psalm 13:1-2, 130:1-6

Lamentations 3:21

Going Deeper

We even refuse to be our true self with God - and then wonder why we lack intimacy with Him.

– Brennan Manning, Abba's Child

The use of the "psalms of darkness"...is an act of bold faith on the one hand, because it insists that the world must be experienced as it really is and not in some pretended way. On the other hand, it is bold because it insists that all such experiences of disorder are a proper subject for discourse with God. There is nothing out of bounds, nothing precluded or inappropriate. Everything properly belongs in this conversation of the heart.

– Walter Brueggemann

1. Our God knows all things and sees all things and therefore we cannot hide anything from Him. Yet, we may hold back our thoughts when we are praying. Why is it important for us to be open and honest with our Heavenly Father?

2. How does God rescue us from our suffering?

3. Have you ever yelled at God? Do you feel that it's okay to yell at God?

4. How does sharing our thoughts with our God move us closer to Him?

5. How can tragedy strengthen your faith?

6. Are you appalled by the way Job speaks to God? Why or why not?

7. Read the second quote in the "Going Deeper" section to the left by Walter Brueggemann. What do you think of this quote? Is there something in your life that you would not pray about? Why or why not?

8. What acts or promises of God give you hope during trials in life?

Session 4: God Responds to and Restores Job

Bible References

Job 38-42

Going Deeper

As it was for Job, knowing God will immerse you in greater mystery, not solve the mysteries for you.

– Jonathan Martin

1. Have you ever found yourself in a devastating situation asking the question “Why?” Rarely is that question ever answered. How did you eventually move forward?

2. In today’s world it’s not uncommon for people to put themselves above God. Their perspective is God is far away and we are in control of all we do. How can we protect ourselves from being overwhelmed by this perspective?

3. What does it mean to you to be humble before God?

4. The story of Job teaches us that God’s ways remain far beyond our full comprehension. How does that effect your desire to continue to grow in your knowledge of Him?

5. Is it hard to understand God’s purpose for your life when you are experiencing trials? Why?

6. Why do you trust in God? How does this trust help you in times of trial?

7. What part of God's creation do you find to be the most amazing? How do you feel in comparison to this part of creation?

8. Even after Job repents once, God continues to tell Job about His creation and its' magnificence. Why do you think God continues with this even though Job already seems to get the point?

9. Have you ever tried to justify your actions to God? Do you think God accepts your reasoning?

10. Think back to what you thought about Job before we started our sessions for this month. Has your perspective changed? Have you learned anything new about Job?
