

The Book of Job Home Group Notes 2

Job 2:11 – 3:26 Why? Why? Why?

Set the scene: If you just don't know what to say to someone in their predicament or grief, what do you do? Discuss

Hear from God: Read Job 2:11-3:26 – share it between those who like reading – maybe draw a timeline or invent a film plot as a reminder of the twists and turns of chapters 1-2.

When a friend is in pain, what do you do?

1. What is good and helpful about the response of Job's three friends (2:11-13)?
2. How much of an encouragement is it to you that Jesus has shared our human pain and sorrow by 'pitching his tent' (John 1:14) alongside us on this earth, 'despised, rejected, oppressed, afflicted, taking our infirmities and carrying our sorrows' (Isa. 53)? How is Jesus our friend?

When you are hurting badly, what do you say?

3. Job says nothing for seven days. Why might that be helpful to him? And to others? Are you good at saying nothing when you are overwhelmed?
4. What does Job say to his friends about his own suffering? How does this compare with Satan's prediction in 2:5?
5. In 3:1-10 Job curses his birthday. It seems he doesn't want another birthday because it's the worst thing to celebrate, because he wishes he had not been born. Leviathan is the monster from the deep. If you were feeling this low, how might you say it?

6. In 3:11-19 comes the first 'Why?' Job screams at life and wishes he had not survived the dangers of childbirth, and takes warped comfort in that at least in death everyone is equal. How do you feel about him talking like this?
7. Why is life given to those in misery (20)? Why is life given to people who can't see ahead (23)? Good questions! Has Jesus shown us how life can still be affirmed in the midst of severe testing and turmoil and powerlessness?

Apply these things to your life

8. V.25 is revealing about Job's fear of insecurity. What fear of the future affects you at present? How much does it affect you? Are you addressing it physically? financially? above all, spiritually (that is, in a godly manner)?
9. Jesus did not contemplate death with tranquillity. 'He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears..' (Hebrews 5:7) But there is a big difference between Job and Jesus in the face of suffering: one has a defiant spirit, the other humble submission. Which might characterise your response? Which is best? Are they mutually contradictory? (See Paul in 2 Cor.12:7-10)
10. If Job came to church on Sunday, he would probably slip in slightly late and sit at the back somewhere. How would you respond to him?

Prayer ideas

- Be ready to pray in silence if overwhelmed or loudly like Job
- Thank Jesus for his friendship 'What a friend we have in Jesus'
- Pray for those who are down, and maybe very down
- Pray a prayer which expresses more of your raw feelings
- Share one another's prayer requests and answers