

JOB

A PATH
THROUGH
SUFFERING

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 2 June 25, 2023
“Miserable Comforters”



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for everyone gathered here today and ask that you surround us with your powerful, life-changing presence. Thank you for loving each of us and for calling us to walk with you. We come before you as we meet and declare our dependence on you. Be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Fill our hearts with your love, fill our words and conversations with truth and grace. We ask all of these things in praise and adoration of You. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Job 4:7-8 (NIV)

“Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed? ⁸ As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it.

Job 5:1-6 (NIV)

“Call if you will, but who will answer you? To which of the holy ones will you turn? ² Resentment kills a fool, and envy slays the simple. ³ I myself have seen a fool taking root, but suddenly his house was cursed. ⁴ His children are far from safety, crushed in court without a defender. ⁵ The hungry consume his harvest, taking it even from among thorns, and the thirsty pant after his wealth. ⁶ For hardship does not spring from the soil, nor does trouble sprout from the ground.

Job 6:1-4, 8-10 (NIV)

Then Job replied: ² “If only my anguish could be weighed and all my misery be placed on the scales! ³ It would surely outweigh the sand of the seas— no wonder my words have been impetuous. ⁴ The arrows of the Almighty are in me, my spirit drinks in their poison; God’s terrors are marshaled against me.

“Oh, that I might have my request, that God would grant what I hope for, ⁹ that God would be willing to crush me, to let loose his hand and cut off my life! ¹⁰ Then I would still have this consolation— my joy in unrelenting pain— that I had not denied the words of the Holy One.

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INTRODUCTION

How do you bear suffering? How do you get through the inevitable suffering that will come to you? The answer to that is comfort. In the book of Job, Job has three friends who show up and do an absolutely terrible job of comforting. Yet, even by looking at their terrible comfort, we can learn something about the sources of comfort.

Eliphaz’s council is completely wrong because he believes the innocent don’t suffer only those who do wrong in God’s eyes suffer. This does not line up with God’s word. Job gives us some better comfort through his self-council because he shows emotional realism, he keeps praying, he rejects taking his own life and he has a sense of God’s love. Although Job’s self-council is good council, our ultimate comfort comes in Jesus Christ. When we put our trust in him we find the ultimate comfort.

QUESTIONS

1. Summer began this past week. What is your favorite thing about summer?
2. How do you comfort people who are going through a season of suffering?
3. Read Job 4:7-8 and 5:1-6 (on page 1). What is wrong with Eliphaz’s counseling of Job? What would you do differently?
4. Read Job 6:1-4 and 6:8-10 (on page 1). In his response to Eliphaz’s council, we see that Job handles suffering through emotional realism; continuing to pray, he rejects taking his own life and he has a sense of God’s love. Which one of these measures helps you the most get through times of suffering?
5. In the Heidelberg catechism, a creed written in 1563, the authors ask the question “what is your only comfort in life and death?” What would you say is your ultimate comfort when going through seasons of suffering and why?

FINAL APPLICATION

What can you do this week to comfort someone going through a difficult time?