



### *The Life of Job*

The topic of suffering poses some the deepest questions human beings struggle with. Why is there suffering? Why does God allow it? Does the fact that we suffer mean there is no God? Or, that He is not good?

When pain comes our way, we are not prepared; it takes us by surprise because we expected (even thought we were entitled to) an easy life. In the midst of our pain, we are impatient, looking for a quick fix. Seeking escape, we anesthetize ourselves. When pain comes to others, we have no idea how to help, so we isolate and avoid them, or add insult to their injury with meaningless platitudes.

Where do we find wisdom to help us make sense of suffering? What does the Bible have to say on the subject? Should Christ-followers expect a life that is free from suffering? Isn't it God's job to protect us from pain? The story of Job offers an unexpected perspective.

Week Five: Suffering–Hidden Discoveries

Text: Selected Scriptures

Discussion Questions:

The following are based on the “My Application” Questions found in the bulletin this week. (Leader urge your group members to attend worship—or watch the sermon online—and to spend time considering and answering those questions before coming to the group. This will produce a richer discussion time.)

- Read James 1:2-4 and 1:12. What is the best attitude to assume in trials? Why? What are the promises associated with seeking God in suffering?
- Has anyone ever watched someone else face suffering in a way that inspired you to deeper faith? Tell us about that.
- We are accustomed to hearing God described as a loving father, but our feelings don't always line up with that description. Describe a time when you doubted God's love.
- What does Job learn about God's love and care? See Job 10:8-12, 14:14-17.
- Job knows he cannot represent himself to God. See Job 9:32-35. How does Jesus fulfill what Job is asking for? See Hebrews 4:14-16
- What are some discoveries you have made (or are making) through your own suffering?

#### Prayer:

Read Hebrews 4:14-16. We HAVE what Job wished for: Someone who can mediate between us and God. Ask the group members to spend a few minutes considering their weaknesses, temptations, and suffering and how Jesus experienced the same things we do. Thank Him together that because Jesus is God in Flesh, He understands us, He is with us, and He is for us when we suffer.

#### Application:

Share with your group: How have you been able to BLESS suffering people around you during the course of this study? Continue to look for opportunities to be intentional in the lives of people who feel far from God in the middle of suffering. This is a perfect opportunity to BLESS them.

#### Scripture Memory:

*I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.  
And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;  
I myself will see him with my own eyes - I, and not another.  
How my heart yearns within me!  
Job 19:25-27*