

Life Group Study Guide Job 3-37

Icebreaker

What are some common myths that people believe about God when they face suffering? Have you ever found yourself believing one of those myths? Why do you think we struggle so much when we face difficult circumstances?

Introduction

After the initial narrative of events in chapters 1 and 2, the book of Job relates a series of speeches by Job and his friends from chapter 3 through chapter 37. At the end of the book, it is revealed that Job's three friends were misguided in their thinking about suffering. Job was off track in many of his thoughts as well. It is important that we spend time dissecting the wrong thinking in Job so that we will not get caught in the same traps when we face suffering.

Read Job 4:1-21

What misconception(s) about suffering do you see in this chapter? How would you respond to these misconceptions if you were speaking to Job and his friends?

Read Job 10:1-22

What misconception(s) about suffering do you see in this chapter? How would you respond to these misconceptions if you were speaking to Job? If you were in Job's sandals, do you think you would struggle with similar thoughts? How do you think God felt about what Job said? What would God want Job to know in that moment?

Read Job 19:1-29

What misconception(s) about suffering do you see in this chapter? Are there any accurate truths that you see shared as well? How would you respond to these misconceptions if you were speaking to Job and his friends?

Conclusion

Misconceptions about God can be dangerous. Job and his friends were struggling to make sense of his deep suffering. Most of what they said was based on wrong presuppositions. They all (Job included) seem to accept the idea that good actions and strong faith lead to comfort and ease in life, while sin and lack of faith lead to suffering. That formula does not always hold true. All people will face times of suffering. In those times, we should not automatically conclude that the problem is due to their sin or because they need to learn a lesson. Sometimes suffering is a consequence of sin and God can certainly teach us during times of suffering, but the assumption that all suffering is a result of sin is inaccurate and unbiblical. Instead of thinking that God is against us when we face difficulties, we should trust God in the midst of our suffering and lean on Him to help us through it. If we do that, He will prove Himself faithful.