

Series: Overcoming Overwhelm: Job 3-27

Week of November 8

1 LIFE engagement question ONE aim: To see God at work in the relationships He has placed around us and join Him in His work. Praying for others in this and sharing stories builds our faith and gives us courage. Be patient and extend grace to one another as each one of you devotes yourselves to following Jesus' lead in your relationships. Everyone does not need to share each time you meet. Let God lead and do the work. What have you found surprising as you have been blessing and investing in your ONE?

Scripture Study & Discussion

Lord, truly, who are we that You are mindful of us? Whose hope, whose mercy, whose righteousness could begin to match the riches of Yours that is bestowed upon us as Your children? Thank You, Father, for Your Faithfulness. Thank You for giving us an eternal name to flourish beneath. Thank You for knowing us inside and out, and for teaching us how to know ourselves. For giving us a purpose of being: to be with You here and now and forever. For sharing in everything that is known as You reveal it, and for bringing us deeper into Your Great Mystery, guided by true love and kindness and gentleness and hope. Amen.

Read (or reference): Job 3, especially 11-26 – Job's Lament - Here we have a picture of Job's grief after Satan stripped him of everything. What do you think Job's expressed lament reveals about mankind and our personal experiences with deep anguish?

Take turns reading: Job 8:2-7; Job 11:2-6; Job 15:2-6; and Job 22:21-28 – The Wisdom of "Friends" - - What is your takeaway on how Job's friends respond to his existential angst? What did Job really need from those around him?

Consider Matthew 11:28-30 – How might Job's friends' responses have changed if they were led by compassion and humility, as Christ exemplifies?

**OPTIONAL: Consider Matthew 23:1-4 – How does their advice and "encouragement" expose human nature's temptation to place unrealistic expectations upon others, similar to the Pharisee trait Jesus points out in this passage?*

Read (or reference): Job 19 – especially 19:2-4 and 19:20-27 – The Exasperation and Hope of a Grieving Man - Job loses faith in the people around him but still holds to the knowing that his Redeemer lives and will be seen in the end. What power might hope in God's steadfastness have when those we thought were for us turn out not to be after all?

- Read (or reference) Hebrews 6:16-20 and 7:26-28 – "we have this hope as an anchor for the soul [...] He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he o ered himself". How is Christ revealed as the Redeemer Job puts his hope in?

Read: Job 27:1-6 – Standing in Truth – "Til I die, I will not deny my integrity." - Here, we see Job putting his foot down plainly. Consider closely verses 4 and 5. How does agreeing with his accusers, against himself, promote wickedness and lying, as Job asserts it to be?

Consider how a God-given self-image might di er from the distorted self image the world often places upon us (that we can be tempted to align with).

Consider Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." - - How does God's choice to live and die as a human for our sake (John 3:16-17) reveal the inherent value of human beings as He created us to imbue and sees within us?

Consider how this might dismantle arguments (even from "friends") that suggests God promotes wrath over mercy and destruction over hope. How can accepting this God-given value in our personal identities promote internal rest?

Consider your own walk, and how belonging to our Father's House brings a sense of belonging and home.

Closing Prayer Prompt: After prayer requests, spend a little time thanking God for being our Home as we need "home" to be: a place to rest when life hurts, without condemnation.

Please Note: These questions pertain to the Scripture used for the weekend- not necessarily the sermon content. The direction the speaker takes may vary. The Lord works in mysterious ways. So does Brian Mills.