

SERMON GROUP STUDY GUIDE

What was the most significant thing you learned from the sermon or something in the sermon you didn't quite understand?

INTRO

Paul says that Scripture makes us "wise for salvation" (2 Timothy 3:15), while the message of the cross seems foolish to the world (1 Corinthians 1:18).

Discuss a time when what God was doing in your life was very different from what seemed logical or obvious to you?

DIGGING INTO THE TEXT - JOB 4:1-7:21

- What was the basic argument Eliphaz made to Job, and where do you see both truth and error in his reasoning?
- According to Job 4:3-5, what change in Job's circumstances caused Eliphaz to challenge him, and do you think Eliphaz was being fair? Why or why not?
- In Job 6, what does Job wish his friends understood about his suffering, and why does he compare them to intermittent streams (6:14-15)?
- As Job speaks to God in chapter 7, how does he describe his life, his suffering, and God's attention toward him?
- Does Eliphaz see suffering as evidence of guilt?
- Does Job believe his suffering can be explained that simply?
- True or False: Good things only happen to good people and bad things only happen to bad people.

TAKEAWAYS

COUNSEL WITHOUT THE CROSS BRINGS NO COMFORT

1 Peter 2:24; 3:18; Isaiah 53:4-6

- When someone is suffering, why is it important to point them to Christ and the cross rather than simply trying to explain their circumstances?
- How does the suffering of Jesus in 1 Peter 2:24 and 3:18 help us respond differently to suffering than Eliphaz did?
- How does the cross challenge the idea that suffering is always a sign of God's displeasure?
- What comfort can suffering believers find in the fact that Jesus not only died for their sins, but also understands their suffering?

GOD KNOWS THE WAY THAT WE TAKE

Job 23:10; Isaiah 55:8; Romans 8:28; John 14:1-3

- Job did not know why he was suffering, but God knew "the way that he took" (Job 23:10). What truths can we hold onto when we don't have answers?
- How do Romans 8:28 and John 14:1-3 help us trust God when His purposes are unclear?
- How does knowing that God is sovereign and that Christ is preparing a place for us help us endure seasons of confusion and suffering?