

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

- Have you ever found yourself more concerned with giving the "right answer" than with loving the person in front of you?
- What's the difference between defending biblical truth and pretending we know God's specific reasons for someone's suffering?
- Why is that distinction so important?

DIGGING INTO THE TEXT - JOB 18-19

- How does Bildad describe the fate of the wicked? What assumptions is he making about Job?
- In Job 19:21-22, what does Job ask of his friends, and why does he believe they have failed him?
- In Job 19:25-27, what confident hope does Job express even while he is suffering?
- It is dangerous to assume that every hardship is a direct punishment from God. How does Jesus' response in John 9:1-3 challenge the disciples' assumption about suffering, and how does it connect with the message of Job?

TAKEAWAYS

NOTE: Micah warned us, "Don't mistake mystery for malice." He also stated that sometimes we suffer as a consequence of our own sin. Sometimes we experience suffering as a consequence of someone else's sin. Sometimes we suffer simply because we live in a broken and fallen world.

- Why is it important to remember that we do not always know everything God is accomplishing through suffering?
- How can trusting God's wisdom change our perspective?
- When life doesn't make sense, what helps you continue trusting God's character instead of assuming He is against you?
- Why is it dangerous to speak with certainty where God has not spoken with certainty? How can doing so actually wound the very people we're trying to help?
- Bildad's theology included many biblical truths, but he wrongly applied them to Job. What does that teach us about using true doctrine without wisdom, humility, or compassion?
- Job longed for a Redeemer more than an explanation. Why do you think we often crave answers more than we cling to Christ?
- How can we intentionally shift our focus toward Him?