

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 gone through something so difficult that you found yourself saying things you never thought you'd say? What was happening, what did you say and who heard it?

DIGGING INTO THE TEXT - JOB 3

- What does Job's cursing the day of his birth teach us about the effect prolonged suffering can have on a faithful believer?
- Job traces his life from the womb, to his mother's knees, to being nursed. How does this picture of loving care contrast with the way Job views his life in the midst of suffering?
- According to verses 13-19, why does Job view death as preferable to life? How does 2 Timothy 1:10 help clarify what Job could not yet fully understand?
- Compare Job's words in verses 20-26 with Satan's description of God's protection in Job 1:10. How has Job's view of God's "hedge" changed because of his suffering?
- What words and phrases in verses 24-26 reveal the depth of Job's suffering, and what do they tell us about his emotional and spiritual condition at this moment?

TAKEAWAYS

GOD IS PRESENT

Job 1:21; 3:20; Psalm 139:7-10

- In Job 1:21 and Job 3:20, what do Job's words reveal about who he believes is ultimately behind both the blessings and hardships of life? Does this challenge your view of God?
- How does David's description of God's presence help us respond when, like Job, God seems distant in our suffering?

GOD CAN HANDLE IT

Psalm 142:1-2

- Do you ever hesitate to bring your deepest struggles to God? You know He already knows what's going on, right?

GOD'S WORD IS TRUE

Job 3:5; Psalm 23:4

- According to Psalm 23:4, what truth remains unchanged even in the darkest valley?
- Why is it important to remind ourselves of God's truth (reading His Word) when suffering affects our thoughts and emotions?

"Christians tend to think of conformity to Christ in terms of the radiant splendor that was displayed on the Mount of Transfiguration. However, conformity to Christ also means conformity to His death (Philippians 3:10). The suffering Christian is not only learning through his trials to die more and more to sin and live more and more to righteousness, but he is learning to identify more closely with the one who loved him and gave himself for him." - Joel Beeke