

**Leadership Tip!****Be slow to speak.**

**This allows others to think of what they might want to share.  
It is ok to have some silence after you ask a question.**

**SECOND WIND – WHEN LIFE IS HARD****STARTER QUESTIONS:**

**What makes your life hard (and don't blame your kids!)?**

**Why do you think God allows us, as Christ followers, to have difficult lives?**

**What questions do you have for God when you finally meet him?**

**MAIN IDEA:**

We are currently in a series titled "SECOND WIND", discussing how we can find the energy or perseverance to pick ourselves back up when we are feeling exhausted, disconnected, or generally not well.

This week Pastor Hank focused on the old testament book of Job and used the story to discuss why sometimes God allows us to have difficulties in our lives.

Job's plight of undeserved suffering compels us to ask the age-old question:

**Why do bad things happen to good people?**

The answer given to Job, and often-times us, may or may not satisfy us.

Pain inevitably afflicts each one of us. Suffering is unavoidable in this life. God allows pain for good reason, but God often never reveals the reasons for the pain we experience in our lives. Job did not reject God. God did not answer Job's question of "Why?"—He instead overwhelmed Job and his friends with the truth of His majesty and sovereignty.

Job came away with a deeper sense of God's power and splendor, trusting Him more.

**Share one time in your life when you have asked God a question/request and have not gotten an answer that satisfies you.**

### **Read Psalm 34:17-20 (ESV)**

“When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken.”

The most important part of Job’s story and what Pastor Hank discussed is how we pull ourselves back up after experiencing difficulties in life and experience that “Second Wind.”

Pastor Hank gave us some great advice to pick ourselves back up by

1. Following Jesus
2. Remembering that this life is temporary
3. Letting God’s light shine through us

**How do you lift up either yourself or others after a difficult situation or experience?**

### **Read Mark 11:22-24 (ESV)**

“And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

### **FINAL THOUGHTS:**

Instead of asking where God is in the midst of your pain, the book of Job affirms God’s control and asks us, “Where are we in our pain? Are we trusting our Creator, even though we cannot understand our circumstances?”

### **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

### **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE:**

Job 42:5-6

James 2:19

Mark 9:23

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

<http://www.faithaliveresources.org>

**SECOND WIND**  
“When Life is Hard: JOB”  
April 23, 2017

**Questions Job’s Story Raises:**

- “Why can’t I seem to say the right thing when somebody’s hurting?”

*“I have heard many things like these; miserable comforters are you all! Will your long-winded speeches never end? What ails you that you keep on arguing?”* Job 16:2-3 (NIV)

- Why doesn’t God just explain all this to me?

*“If only I knew where to find God, I would go to his throne and talk with him there. I would lay out my case and present my arguments. Then I would listen to his reply and understand what he says to me.”* Job 23:3-5 (NLT)

- Why don’t the wicked suffer?

*“The truth is that the wicked live to a good old age. They grow old and wealthy... They spend their days in prosperity; then they go down to the grave in peace.”* Job 21:7-17 (NLT)

- Why does God seem far away?

*“Why do you hide your face?”* Job 13:24 (NIV)

- Why is life so hard?

*“Why is life so hard? Why do we suffer?”* Job 7:1 (CEV)

*“In this world you will have trouble.”* John 16:33b (NIV)

*“...the dilemma we’re in—first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death. That sin disturbed relations with God in everything and everyone.”* Romans 5:12 (MSG)

**What are the results of living in a (fallen) broken world?**

1. Natural Disasters.
2. Physical decay and death.

3. Emotional problems

4. Relational problems.

5. Spiritual darkness.

*“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”* John 16:33 (NIV)

### **How do we find a Second Wind when life gets hard?**

- Follow Jesus

*“Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.’”* John 8:12 (NLT)

- Remember this is all temporary.

*“This world is not our home; we are looking forward to our everlasting home in heaven.”* Hebrews 13:14 (LB)

- Let His light shine.

*“Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving message into the night.”* Philippians 2:15 (MSG)