

Preparing for Dry Seasons

September 26, 2021

Scriptures: Job 3:33-35, 4:7-8, 9:22-24; Prov. 8:11; Matt. 6:7-13; 1 Cor. 11:17-34

Bottom Line: Our disciplines remind us of God's goodness when we don't feel it

If we are not prepared for dry seasons, we might not experience the strength and maturity that could grow in us. Instead, we can give in to anger and cynicism.

Expanding Your Worldview

Dry seasons can break our expectations about who God is and what following Him is like.

The Lesson From Job

- Job & his friends believe God runs the world according to strict rules of justice: that Job is either sinful and guilty, or God is a corrupt bully
- God tells Job that His worldview is too simple, and that God's justice and goodness takes far more into account than just whether someone is righteous or wicked

Does Your Worldview Account for Suffering and Loss?

- God doesn't shield us from every bad thing in his wild and wonderful world
- Developing biblical expectations for life with God helps us trust God through our dry seasons

Develop Habits and Disciplines

God Gives His People Habits and Disciplines to Shape Them

- God gave Israel weekly and annual rhythms of rest and celebration to help shape what they focused on and thought about
- Jesus gave the Church a way to pray and the practice of communion to shape the way they thought and lived in community

Our Habits and Disciplines Remind Us of Who God Is

- Our disciplines remind us that God is good, trustworthy, powerful, and loving when we are in a season where those things are hard to see

LISTENING

Have someone in your group share something about their week. They could answer one of the following questions:

- What was a big challenge or problem you faced this week? How did you handle it?
- Where did you experience God this week? Or where do you wish you had experienced God this week?
- Based on your life experience this week, what do you think God is trying to teach you right now? What is He trying to build in you?

After the person shares, the group can respond. Make sure you let them know you heard them: tell them what you heard, offer wise advice where it's asked for, share from your own experience as well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. Have you ever been caught off guard by trouble? How did you react?
3. Does your understanding of God and His world allow for bad things to happen to good people? How do you make sense of the trouble and suffering that people (including the righteous) experience?
4. What habits or disciplines do you have in place that remind you of who God is and what He's done for you?