

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Job 42:1-6

LEADER'S STUDY

Why:

Life is full of circumstances that we don't understand, and suffering is something that everyone will experience in life. When it comes to our circumstances, the question we often ask is, "Why?" Who God is and how we know Him has everything to do with how we address that question. God is deeply concerned with our hearts. So much so that He suffered everything so that we could be reconciled to Him. As people who have been rescued from sin and death, when we encounter hard and seemingly bad circumstances, God wants us to turn to Him. When we responded to the gospel by trusting Jesus as forgiver and leader, we trusted Him to take the punishment for *our sins instead* of us and we are trusting His leadership in our lives. Because of what Jesus did, when we encounter difficult and painful things, we know it is not because God is punishing us. When we don't see the good in our circumstances, we have to know that God is doing something bigger than we can see. This may not change the pain and reality of what we are experiencing but God's grace and His Holy Spirit give us the ability to trust Him even when we can't see where he is going. Remember as followers of Christ our lives are lived in constant dependence on Him and He showed us His goodness and love for us by bearing the ultimate suffering on our behalf. God really is good and He can be trusted.

This week as you prepare for your study, read or listen to the entire book of Job, so that you can have context to see what God is doing and who He is. Ask God to reveal Himself to you and to soften your heart towards Him. Questions to ask while you study might be: Who is God? How is God revealing Himself and his character through this scripture? Do I trust Him when I don't understand why things are not going the way I think they should? Do I believe that He is good? Do I believe that I will never face the punishment for my sin? How is God inviting me to trust Him? How does this point to the gospel? How is God changing my thinking? How do I view others, and myself, differently because of the gospel? Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Also read: Isaiah 53

What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

How is God calling you to think and to live differently? How does this change your perspective today? How is God calling you to respond based on this scripture? Spend some time reading Job and Isaiah 53. Meditate on it as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word.

PREPARING BEFORE GROUP

PURPOSE: Life transformation through the Holy Spirit. He uses scripture and prayer to renew our minds and transform our lives!

PRAY: Pray for the people in your groups by name. Spend time asking the Holy Spirit to help you lead well as you meditate on key passages and seek to know God's heart.

PLAN:

It might be helpful to allow some time at the beginning of your study to ask if anyone has ever questioned their faith in Jesus. Sometimes we just need the freedom and safety with others to voice the questions that are on our hearts. Often other people share the same questions, struggles and thoughts.

It is also a good idea to plan some time into your group to break up into groups and pray together. Sometimes people are more comfortable sharing and are more honest in a smaller group of 2-4 people than they are with the whole group.

As you meet together, you might identify people in your group who are open to a 1 on 1 or micro discipleship group. It is normal for these small groups to develop as you seek God together. Maybe it is as simple as asking someone if they want to get together over a cup of coffee and seek God together in scripture.

INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Job 42:1-6

And meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-for-thought perspective.

Consider reading the whole book before your meeting to help you understand the context.

(This is a big chunk, I know. If you aren't able to get all of it read in your schedule, consider listening to it on the bible app on your phone or online. This would only take 90 mins total or 5- 18 min trips in the car.)

[Here is a helpful video to summarize the book of Job as well.](https://youtu.be/xQwnH8th fs)

Try to summarize the passage in your own words.

POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS

These are just questions you might ask to help your group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer all of these as a group

What is significant, surprising or confusing from these verses?

What is the context of these verses based on earlier chapters?

What seems to be the main point of these verses?

How does this portion of scripture point to Jesus and the gospel?

What did you discover or learn about God and His character from this passage?

Look at one or two key words and define them really clearly, then look at them in context with that definition. Does this change your understanding?

Why did God bring me to this scripture today?

What parts of this passage are challenging to your current way of thinking?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How is God calling you to obey, based on this passage?

or

What is your "I will" statement?

(Encourage everyone to steer clear of "we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

With whom are you going to share what you have learned?

(This is a critical part of growth that is often overlooked. If we can share it with someone else it means we really understand it, it cements it in our own minds, it makes us accountable to the truth and it blesses the one who hears the it. Rom 10:17)

Based on this passage, what can we pray about and how should we pray?