

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Job 26:1-14

LEADER'S STUDY

God's Breath

Job 26:1-14

What is happening?

Here are the Cliff Notes for the book of Job: Despite his strong faith in God, Job experienced great loss through no fault of his own. Friends who came to console him ended up telling him this was all his own fault and he deserved worse than he got. In the end, God enters into the conversation to say that none of them know what they're talking about, for no mortal can understand His purposes.

In chapter 25, Job's friend Bildad has just wrapped up his "encouragement" by saying, in effect, "It's about time God knocked you down a peg, you maggot!" Job's final reply in ch. 26-31 begins with his asking how any of this is helpful to anyone. Only God has the authority to say why these things have befallen him, for it is God who created him (and everything else that exists). Job refers specifically to the Holy Spirit in vv. 13-14. (Because the same Hebrew word [רוּחַ, *ruach*] can be translated either spirit, wind, or breath, some versions say one thing in v. 13 and others say another, but it's all the same word.) The way His Spirit brings order out of chaos is just a small whisper of His almighty power, v. 14. Job seems confident that his situation would be redeemed by that same power—the life-giving breath of God.

Where is the gospel?

When God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1), all three Persons of the Trinity were involved. Creation itself had no part in it other than to simply be the result. Because humanity chose self-will over God's will—in fact, man tried to be like God himself (Genesis 3:5)—God's once-perfect creation became marred. Just as only God can create something out of nothing, only He can restore us to the wholeness of our original state. The blood of Christ, and that alone, cleanses us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9) when we yield to His Spirit and give up trying to do things our own way (Matthew 16:25).

As you prepare for this week, ask yourself questions like these: How do I respond when things happen that I don't like? When my life feels like it's in chaos, do I try to put it in order myself? Do I feel like I have to figure out all the hard stuff before I can trust God? If so, why do I feel that way? How is God calling me to depend on Him more? How is God calling me to respond based on this scripture?

Spend some time reading and meditating on these truths 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. 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.

Some helpful scriptures: Genesis 1:1-2, 26-27; 2:7; Ecclesiastes 11:5; John 3:5-8; Acts: 2:1-4; Romans 8:1-11. What other places in scripture speak to this same truth?

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Job 26:1-14

INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Job 26:1-14
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.

Job is not the first book in the Bible, but many scholars believe it to be the oldest. The events probably took place just before or during Abraham's lifetime.

According to 1:1, Job lived in "the land of Uz." Though no one today is certain where Uz was, some speculate it was located in present-day Syria. Others think it was in a region once known as Edom, now the southern part of Jordan. Either way, Job was not a Hebrew.

The book is part of the Bible's "wisdom literature" (this includes Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon). These books are neither history (like Genesis) nor the law (like Leviticus) nor prophecy (like Isaiah), but are poetry. Like the rest of the scriptures, they were written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, preserved down through the millennia by Him, and the Spirit reveals the truth of these writings to believers in which He dwells.

How can obscure poetry written in such a distant time and place be relevant to my life today?

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.

In vv. 1-4, Job asks his friends some theoretical questions about their qualifications to judge him. *They can't do any of the things he mentions; but can you think of situations when the Holy Spirit performed each of those functions?*

In v. 6, some versions say "Sheol" while others translate that as "the underworld" (the place the soul goes after death). In the second phrase, some use the poetic word "Abaddon" while others translate it "destruction." (The Hebrew word *abaddon* is found only a few times in the Old Testament, and all of those places are in the Wisdom Literature.) What is Job saying here about Sheol and Abaddon?

In v. 12, some versions say "Rahab" and others translate it "sea monster." There are several mentions of this in the Bible, and it has to do with the Spirit establishing order out of chaos. As usual in the scriptures, the serpent in v. 13 represents Satan. What do these verses tell us?

What seems to be the main point of this passage?

What do you learn about God from this passage?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Can you think of a time when you've inadvertently tried to take the place of God when assessing someone else's situation?

Does it comfort you to think that nothing is beyond God's knowledge and control, even death?

What is Job talking about in vv. 7-11? Is it encouraging to think that the same God who dictates how much rain a cloud holds, and the One who drew the line of the horizon as if with a compass, also holds your eternal destiny in His hands?

Does everything Job says here about God apply to the Holy Spirit? Does everything he says specifically about the Holy Spirit apply to the whole triune God?

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 it. Rom 10:17)

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