

***When Life Hurts***

# **Dealing with Loss**

**Job 1:1-22**

*Additional praises/significant happenings this past week:*

*Ice Breaker:* When have you heard someone say, “The devil made me do it?”

**[Read Job 1:1-22]**

1. What does it mean that Job was “blameless and upright”?
2. What does it mean that the Lord, not Satan, initiates the testing of Job? What limits does God place on Satan?
3. Had you been Job, how would you have reacted after all these losses? What might be your greatest question to God?
4. How did Job view his possessions?
5. How do you react to Job’s response to his misfortune?

6. In what ways can you identify with Job's losses? How did that challenge your faith?

7. What in Job's response strikes you as most extraordinary? How would you have responded to similar circumstances?

8. How is Job's temptation like and unlike Jesus' temptation?

**Wrap up:**

Job loved God more than \_\_\_\_\_. After all his losses, as difficult as it may have been, he responded by worshipping God.

What can you praise God for right now? How can you worship Him in your present circumstances?

**Prayer:**

- Ministry to one another through prayer

**LIFE Groups**

*A safe place to build friendships and nurture spiritual growth.*

- L** ♦ Learn..... applying Biblical truth for everyday living
- I** ♦ Invite.....welcoming others to our fellowship
- F** ♦ Fellowship.....nurturing Christ centered caring relationships
- E** ♦ Evangelism..... reaching others with the hope of Christ

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# **The Spiritual Fruit of Trials**

**James 1:1-18**

*Additional praises/significant happenings this past week:*

*Ice Breaker:* Share about a difficult test you took in school.

**[Read James 1:1-18]**

1. Looking at vv.2-4, what should be a Christian's attitude when facing trials?
2. What are common natural responses we have when facing trials?
3. What spiritual 'fruit' can come from trials? (vs. 4) Can you think of other benefits arising from difficult circumstances?
4. How does a person receive "Wisdom"? Share a time when you recently prayed and received God's wisdom.
5. When asking God for guidance, what must we guard against? (v.6)

6. Discuss how the promise of God, as stated in verse 12, can affect a person presently facing difficult times?
  
7. Where does temptation come from?
  
8. When have you been tempted by something that seemed “good and perfect” only to find out it was disappointing or harmful?
  
9. What good does God desire to come from temptations that come our way?

**Wrap up:**

Any of you facing trials? How’s your attitude? Anyone seeking God’s wisdom for a circumstance?

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# God in the Midst of Brokenness

**Romans 8:18-39**

*Additional praises/significant happenings this past week:*

*Ice Breaker:* What's your least favorite thing about getting older?

**[Read Romans 8:18-39]**

1. Talk about some present sufferings all of society is experiencing. And sufferings Christians are experiencing for their faith.
2. What might a world like ours be like if there were no more death and decay?
3. When have you felt a "groaning" in your spirit to see the final victory over sin and death?
4. What comfort do you get from knowing the Holy Spirit 'intercedes' on our behalf when we don't know how to pray? Share a time when you didn't know how to pray and the Holy Spirit comforted you.
5. What confidence does verse 28 give you when bad things happen?

6. What are 5 things God has already done for you that are listed in vv. 29-30?

7. What comfort can we take from the promises in vv. 31-38?

8. What was the closest you felt despair and loneliness of being separated from God?

9. What's the difference between the hope of a Christian and wishful thinking?

**Wrap up:**

How can we pray God's comfort and hope for one another?

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# **Sharing God's Comfort**

**2 Cor. 1:1-11**

*Additional praises/significant happenings this past week:*

*Ice Breaker:* Share a time you were sick as a child. What act of care did you most appreciate?

**[Read 2 Cor. 1:1-11]**

**Paul's difficulties led him to depend all the more on God.**

1. How is God described...what attributes are mentioned here?
2. By whom have you seen these attributes of God played out in your family or friendships?
3. What is Paul facing that would cause him to despair even of life? (7:5-7)
4. What's the relationship between God's ability to comfort us and our ability to comfort others? (v.5)

5. Do challenging times tend to drive you towards or away from God? Explain.
  
6. What despairing experiences have you encountered? And how did you experience the comfort of God?
  
7. Who do you know who is facing challenging times? How might you pray for them?
  
8. What are ways we might be able to express care and God's comfort to others who are hurting?

**Wrap up:**

Is there someone God has placed on your heart to reach out to comfort?

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