

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN: WHY WORSHIP?

Job 1

Pastor Miles McPherson – June 8, 2014

When suffering hits you, how do you respond? Do you get mad at God and blame him for your pain? Or do you draw closer to him in faith and praise him?

When we look at what God's Word says about pain and suffering, we have to acknowledge that sometimes he allows hardship into our lives and uses it shape our lives and to bring him glory. In this study, we'll examine some key passages that reveal God's purposes in suffering.

MEMORY VERSE

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children.

(Hebrews 12:7b)

DISCUSSION STARTERS

What painful trial have you gone through in recent times?

STUDY QUESTIONS

Let's look at some possible reasons that suffering comes into our lives:

1. Suffering can be a natural consequence of sin – either your sin or the sin of others:

→ Read 1 Peter 4:1-5

- How does suffering purify someone from sin?
- What does Jesus' suffering have to do with you suffering?
- What are some natural consequences (suffering) of your sin that you've experienced?



- What are some natural consequences (suffering) of *someone else's* sin that you've experienced?

NOTE: John 10:10 says that the “thief comes to kill, steal and destroy.” Sometimes Satan attacks us with suffering to destroy us (like he did Job). It may come in the form of loss or pain directly afflicted on us, or it may come through the sinful acts of others that we end up bearing the pain and loss from.

2. God uses suffering to shape our character:

→ Read Hebrews 12:3-11

- What is the connection between discipline and suffering?
- How can experiencing suffering remind you of God's love?
- What is the end result of enduring hardship? (v11)
- According to this passage, how should we respond to suffering?

A proper response to suffering:

In his sermon, Pastor Miles read Job 1:20-22 and shared that his response was honorable: he worshiped God in spite of the pain and loss he endured.

→ Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

- Why is it right to rejoice and give thanks in the midst of suffering? (see also James 1:2-4)

→ Read Proverbs 3:5-6

- What is the link between giving thanks (above verses) and trusting in the Lord?
- What does God promise to do for us when we fully trust him?



GROUP ACTIVITY

- Discuss: What are some other possible reasons that God allows suffering into our lives?
- Discuss: When you think of a recent trial in your life, what do you think the purpose of the trial was?
- Close your group time with prayers of worship, putting into practice Job's example of honoring God, even in the midst of pain.

Notes:

