

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 6, 2011

Passage: Job 4-7

Memory Passage: Psalm 16 (Our 2<sup>nd</sup> week of memorizing this Psalm.)

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 4.** How would you describe Eliphaz's tone & demeanor in the first 6 verses? To what does he point as he begins his speech (vs. 3-4)? Do you think this is wise or not? Gentle or sarcastic?
- (b) In vs. 7-11 we find Eliphaz's first theological claim. What is his premise? Do you agree with it? **Read Prov. 22:8 & Gal. 6:7-8.** Do these passages support Eliphaz or contradict him?
- (c) In vs. 12-21 Eliphaz describes a vision. Do you think this vision is from God, Satan, or a lie made up to bolster the authority of his position? Why?
- (d) If you were Job, how would you feel after hearing the first half of Eliphaz's speech? Do you think he proves his point? Do you think he is trying to bring comfort to Job? Why or why not? Do you think he succeeds in comforting? Why or why not?
- (e) *Family:* Summarize the teaching of chapter 4 (vs. 1-6: Job had given counsel and encouragement to others when they suffered, but now that he is suffering he is discouraged; the upright will prosper but sinners will suffer so character can be verified by situations; Eliphaz has a vision in which it is proven to him that everyone sins before God so Job has no right to claim he should not suffer and can't claim to be righteous but should repent so he is released from his suffering). **Read Job 4:17.** Ask your family how they would answer these questions. Ask them if there is any way that the answer could ever be "yes," and under what circumstances? As they present the gospel as the answer, strengthen their understanding of God's work in Christ on the cross that allows unrighteous men and women to stand before and fellowship with a righteous God.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 5.** Summarize this second half of Eliphaz's argument (noticing the 3 sections of the chapter might help: 1-7, 8-16, 17-27).
- (b) Notice how many times Eliphaz points to his own experience/wisdom (4:8; 5:3, 8, 27). Is this wise? Harmful? Neutral? Why? Is his own experience/wisdom correct or faulty? If you were Job, what affect would it have on you as you suffer?
- (c) What does Eliphaz say about God in this chapter? Does he speak rightly of God? Does he apply what he says about God in a correct manner?
- (d) What do we learn about giving advice to a suffering friend from Eliphaz's speech (both what *to* do and what *not* to do)?
- (e) *Family:* Tell a story of a child who does something that requires their parents to discipline them. Make the story such that it is very easy to identify the redemptive benefits of discipline (along the lines of a child sticking their finger in a light socket needing discipline not just because they did something wrong, but so they learned to avoid the danger of electrocution). Then read Job 5:17-18, Prov. 3:11-12, and Hebrews 12:5-11. Spend some time explaining how God disciplining His children is a sign of His love for us, and we should consider it a blessing that He disciplines us as His sons & daughters!

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 6.** What reason does Job give for his words in chapter 3 being so harsh (v. 3)? What connection with Eliphaz's speech do you see in Job's choice of words in v. 2, and what do you think Job is saying to Eliphaz by his choice of this word?
- (b) What does Job request in v. 8? Why does Job think this will bring him comfort and hope (vs. 8-10)? How does this contrast with what Eliphaz said would bring Job hope (4:6 & 5:15-16)?
- (c) What is Job's opinion of Eliphaz (and probably Bildad & Zophar as well) in vs. 14-27? What does this tell us about how Job is receiving Eliphaz's counsel?
- (d) Why does Job ask his friends to "look at" him in vs. 28-30? Why do you think they are not looking at him? Summarize the first half of Job's speech in 3-4 sentences or less.
- (e) *Family:* **Read Job 6:1-7** and ask your family: "What do these verses mean?" Help them understand the picturesque language used in these verses by explaining their meaning. Make this a fun exercise, explaining in detail the amount of sand that is in the sea and how much that would weigh, and picturing this sand on a giant scale, etc. This will help your family begin to read Job with more ease since we have many chapters ahead of us that will use this kind of picturesque language!

**DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Job 7.** To whom is Job speaking in this chapter? What hint are we given as to the length of Job's suffering? What do we learn about the quality of Job's suffering (vs. 3-5)?

(b) What does Job ask God to "remember" in v. 7? What is his point in vs. 7-10?

(c) How would you assess Job's tone in vs. 11-21? Does this surprise you? Are you comfortable or uncomfortable as you read his words? What charges does he bring against God? Job thinks he has the right to speak to God in this way about the subject of his suffering (v. 11). Do you agree with him? Why or why not?

(d) Even though Job seems to have everything "upside down" (compare 7:17-18 with Ps. 8:4; 144:3 & 7:19 with Ps. 13:1-2), what do you notice that is "correct" about his assessments of his situation in vs. 11-21?

(e) *Family:* Write this heading on the top of your white board: "Job's Upside-Down World" and place the white board in its stand upside down. Have your family turn to Ps. 8. Teach through this Psalm explaining that David is praising for His mercy in recognizing & caring for men & women even though they are insignificant compared to God and His glory. Then read Job 7:17-18 and ask, "What do you think Job means when he uses this same language?" Help them to understand that Job, in his suffering, was accusing God of testing him every minute and was complaining about the attention God was giving him. Do the same exercise with Ps. 13:1-2 & Job 7:19. Explain that Job's thinking was turned "Upside-down" by his intense suffering.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Job 4-5.** Do you consider Eliphaz's theology bad or his application of his theology? Explain your answer.

(b) Why, ultimately, does Eliphaz tell Job to repent and seek God's favor? How does his advice compare to what Satan said about Job's faith? How does it compare to what God said about Job's faith?

(c) **Read Job 6-7.** Is Job's response to his friends justified? Does Job sin in his response or maintain his integrity? How does his response help us understand how to/not to respond to our friends' counsel?

(d) Is Job's response to God different in chapter 7 than his responses in chapters 1 & 2? If so, how, and if not, how are they the same? How does this help us to understand how we should/should not respond to God in times of suffering?

(e) *Family:* Tonight spend some time recapping Job 4-7 and asking if your family has any questions. Be prepared with some questions of your own based on what you have taught this week so you can see what your family learned & remembered from your lessons. Remember, repetition is the key to knowledge!

**DATE:** February 6, 2011

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*The Speeches: Eliphaz vs. Job Round 1*