

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 10, 2011

Passage: Job 27-28

Memory Passage: Job 28:28

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Job 27.** In v. 1-6 Job makes a series of oaths. What points is he making by uttering these oaths? What specifically is he claiming in v. 6?

(b) Verse 7 sets the stage for the rest of this chapter. Who is Job's enemy & what plight awaits this enemy if it is up to Job?

(c) What does Job intend to teach his friends (vs. 11-12)? Verses 13-23 describe Job's view of the "portion" and "heritage" of the wicked. How does this section square with what Job has said in other places, such as chapter 21? How do you account for his differing views of the wicked?

(d) *Family: Read Job 27:1-6.* Explain to your family that Job is again maintaining his innocence, but that he is doing it in a set of oaths (or promises). Write each of these promises on your white board ("I will not lie" [v. 4, stated 2 ways]; "I will not give up my integrity" [v. 5]; "I will continue practicing what is righteous" [v. 6a]); and discuss ways in which you and your family can keep these kinds of promises. Focus on the Gospel's enablement for us to crucify sin and live righteously (i.e. Rom. 6). Bolster these instructions with Scripture passages such as Phil. 4:13; Gal. 2:20; Ps. 119:11; Rom. 6:11-12, 17-18.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Job 27:1-6.** Job is making promises to which he is committed for his entire life (v. 3). Would other people look at your life and be able to tell that you are pursuing daily & will pursue Christ as long as you have life and breath? If not, why not? What about your passions & priorities need to be realigned in order for you to pursue Christ with this kind of passion?

(b) Are you committed to not speaking falsehood or uttering deceit? Think deeply about this, because this includes a radical commitment to things like: Refusing to gossip, refusing to judge the motives of others and act upon those assumptions as if they were true, not hiding parts of the truth to avoid consequence or responsibility of/for our actions, not letting someone else's slander or gossip to go unchallenged in order to further your own agenda, as well as a plethora of other situations.

(c) When you are suffering/being persecuted/facing trials, do you continue to hold fast to righteousness and maintain your integrity? How do you measure faithfulness in this area? What temptations do we face during these times of struggle that require watchfulness on our part? Are you committed to this for the future even if you are not currently facing suffering, persecution or trials?

(d) *Family: Read Ps. 1.* Remind your family of Job's promise to live righteously and with integrity as long as he has breath, and your discussion of these promises from last night. Then teach through Psalm 1 as a way that each person in your family can maintain their righteousness & integrity as they live for Christ and the blessings that flow into this kind of life.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Job 28.** After a fascinating description of mining in vs. 1-11, Job asks the central question of the chapter, and possibly the central question of the book, in v. 12. In the flow of Job's thought, what does mining have to do with wisdom?

(b) To what does the "it" refer that is so prominent in vs. 13-20? What is the main point of these verses and how do they fit into Job's flow of thought that leads to the same question in v. 20 (with a slight variation) that is asked in v. 12?

(c) The topic of chapter 28 is wisdom. So lest we skip over the obvious, write down a definition of wisdom. Verses 12 & 20 tie wisdom to understanding. Can one have wisdom without understanding? Understanding without wisdom?

(d) Think of someone whom you believe to be wise. What signs are visible in their life to cause you to think they are wise? Do you think people think of you as wise? How do you know? How does one become wise/grow in wisdom?

(e) *Family: Read Prov. 1:1-7 & 2:1-5.* Tell your family that Solomon wrote these Proverbs in order to impart wisdom and understanding to youth (1:1-6). Since wisdom is the topic, ask them for a definition of wisdom. Be ready to discuss their definition and lead them to a full understanding (one good definition of wisdom is "the right/godly use of knowledge"). Then lead them through Prov. 2:1-5 applying these verses to their lives (e.g. "son" in v. 1 applies to both sons & daughters, the promise in v. 5 is conditioned upon obedience to vs. 1-4, connect 2:1 to 1:7, use examples from their life of things they supremely value to get them to understand that wisdom and understanding is to be sought above everything, etc.)

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Job 28.** Even though wisdom is hidden from everyone and everything (vs. 20-22), God knows where to find it (v. 23). According to Job, why does God know where wisdom dwells?

(b) What answer does v. 28 present for the question asked in vs. 12 & 20? How does one “fear the Lord?” Is your life marked by a fear of the Lord? Why or why not?

(c) What is the connection between turning away from evil and understanding? How does one gain understanding from repentance (turning away from evil)? How does verse 28 relate to the description of Job we found in chapters 1 & 2? Since the life of every believer should be a life of repentance (remember Martin Luther’s 1st thesis?), how does v. 28 relate to the Gospel of Christ that by which we live every day?

(d) *Family: Read Job 28:23-28.* As you read these verses, don’t let the wonderful truths about God’s control of creation escape your family’s notice. Flesh out what it means for God to see everything at once, for God to “give weight to the wind” (does wind have weight?), for God to “apportion the waters by measure” (every drop of every ocean?!!!), and for God to control “the way for the lightning of the thunder” (every zig & zag of every bolt of lightning in all of history?!!!). Draw their attention again (remember last week?) to the majesty and power of God’s creation, and to Job’s claim that it is this creative, powerful God who knows wisdom, who is wisdom in Himself, and that fearing this God is wisdom and obeying Him is understanding.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Col. 2:2-3, James 1:5-8 & Rom. 11:33-36.** There are several other passages in the NT to which we might turn, but let us contemplate these alone for today. What do you learn about wisdom & understanding in Col. 2:2-3? How does this affect your pursuit of wisdom, and the way you teach wisdom to others?

(b) What indispensable truth does James 1:5 reveal to us as we seek to understand how to live wisely? What qualifications does this verse place on God answering this request (vs. 6-8)? Do you regularly ask God for wisdom to live your life? Stop and ask God right now for the wisdom to constantly ask for His wisdom ☺. This is similar (only Biblical!) to the person who finds the genie in the bottle making his/her first wish, “I wish for unlimited wishes!”

(c) Rom. 11:33-36 is an appropriate doxology for our week of study in wisdom! Spend some time now worshipping God with these verses as your hymnbook. Since all wisdom is found in God Himself, then He is worthy of all praise as we live daily seeking His wisdom so that we might live lives pleasing to Him for His glory!

(d) *Family: Read James 1:5-8.* Teach your family what it means to ask for wisdom from God. Remind them that as they daily ask, they are to be studying the Proverbs that present the way of wisdom and listening to their parents who are training them up in the fear & knowledge of the Lord. These things bring joy and long life to those who abide by them. End by praying for each of your family members that God will cause them to seek Christ, and that His wisdom would be strong in their lives as they learn the way of wisdom from God & His word.

DATE: April 10, 2011

PASSAGE: Job 27-28

The Speeches: Job’s Final Speech: Part I

In Job 27-28 we find Job beginning his final speech by making 5 claims concerning his knowledge of justice & wisdom.

I. I know my conscience is clear & my integrity is intact (27:1-6).

II. I know my enemy should be cut off like the wicked (27:7-12).

III. I know the heritage of the wicked (27:13-23).

IV. I know the place of true wisdom.

A. Mining will not unearth it (28:1-12).

B. Riches will not purchase it (28:13-19).

C. Seeking will not unveil it (28:20-22).

D. God alone knows its place (28:23-27).

V. I know the path to true wisdom (28:28).