

A Primer for the Suffering

“The WHY of Suffering”

GETTING STARTED

ICE BREAKER: When and why have you compared someone to a “modern day Job”?

KEY THOUGHT: ***Bad things will happen, but God is still good***

GETTING THE POINT

1. Read Job 1:1–3. Job is described as “blameless and upright.” How does this challenge the assumption that suffering is always a result of personal sin?
2. Read Job 1:6-12. What do we learn about the relationship between God and Satan, and how does this shape our understanding of God’s sovereignty?
3. Read Job 1:20-22 and Job 2:9-10. How does Job respond to his suffering and what does this reveal about his view of God?
4. In Job 38-42, God responds to Job with questions instead of explanations. Why do you think God responds in this way, and what does it teach us about His nature?
5. Read Job 42:2-6. After encountering God, how does Job’s perspective change, and why is this significant?

GETTING DEEPER

Read Isaiah 55:8-9

1. How do these verses connect to Job’s experiences and his response to God?
2. Do you find these verses comforting, frustrating, or some mixture of both? Why?

GETTING PERSONAL

1. According to Romans 5:3-4, suffering can build character and dependence on God. Where have you seen this happen in your own life?
2. How do you personally handle the idea that God allows suffering for purposes we may not understand?
3. Job continued to worship even in deep loss. What might it look like for you to worship God in the middle of difficulty?
4. This message points to Jesus’ suffering as the ultimate example of good coming from pain. How does the cross shape your perspective on your own trials?

PRAY...

that we will learn to respond to our hardships in faith, as Job did.