

Discussion Guide

Discussion Guides accompany the [weekly message](#).

Opening Activity:

Reaction round: Choose one word for your response to the message—challenged, convicted, relieved, uncomfortable, or surprised. What stirred that reaction?

Read:

Job 4:1-8

Job 8:1-10

Job 11:1-6, 13-14

Job 12:1-4

Job 42:7

Romans 12:5

Discussion Questions:

1. Read the friends' words in the book of Job. What stood out—their confidence, partial truth, assumptions, lack of compassion, or something else? How did you react?
2. Eliphaz trusts experience, Bildad tradition, and Zophar a truth about sin applied wrongly. Which influence most often shapes what you believe about God? What might mislead you?
3. "God won't give you more than you can handle" misapplies 1 Corinthians 10:13, which addresses temptation. How could this cliché burden someone who is suffering?
4. In Job 42:7, God says the friends spoke inaccurately about Him. What does this expose about our desire to explain what God has not revealed?
5. Quiet reflection (one minute): When someone shares pain, do you explain, fix, correct, compare, or withdraw? What may be underneath that reaction? Then share your honest reflection.
6. Think of counsel you received during suffering. What made it healing or harmful, and how did it shape your view of God? Share only what you wish.
7. Group practice: Imagine someone saying, "I received frightening news." Go around and offer one sentence of faithful presence—without explaining or fixing.
8. Read Romans 12:15. What can presence, silence, and tears communicate about God's character without offering an explanation?
9. Before giving spiritual advice, ask: Is this what Scripture actually says? Am I claiming to know something God has not told us? Does this reflect Jesus? Which question would help you most?
10. Name a belief about God, suffering, or faith you once held—or still question. Did it come from Scripture, family, tradition, experience, a sermon, or elsewhere? How will it test you?

Challenge for the Week:

Think of one hurting person and decide when you will contact them. Be bold. If you get stuck, ask, "What has this been like?" "What do you need?" or "Would it help if I listened?" Avoid explanations; follow up.