

WHY GOD

Life Group Leader Packet

JUNE 12 - JULY 24, 2022



Why God...

Have you ever asked the question?

If you are suffering you may be repeating that question daily with tears.

The Book of Job teaches us that pain, persecution, and problems are the building blocks of our faith and not the destroyers. Even our adversaries greatest attempts at dethroning trust in God will only reveal faithfulness because our Redeemer lives! Our lives don't shrink from adversity, but see the opportunity to be a blessing and to praise God in the storm through obedience. The Book of Job teaches us that even though we don't see all that God is doing in and through us to this watching world we do know that our God is good, compassionate, and wise. In this world we will have more questions than answers, but not anything less than His mighty promises and overcoming grace. There will be lows and highs as He sees fit as well as moments where His silence may seem deafening. However, His control over His world and love for His children will allow the mystery of suffering to result in our triumph and commendation. The Book of Job teaches us that our concept and understanding of God is too small. His greatness and provisions allow for humility and righteousness to be manifested in our lives for His glory. Who has unbreakable faith? Though the world around you may be failing or your very flesh breaking, the Keeper of your soul will stand you firm as you trust in Him.

Journey with us in this series as we observe how to trust God in our sufferings.

Why God

12-Jun	1	An Adversary and Adversity	Job 1	Eugene
19-Jun	2	Made Nothing	Job 2	Rich H
26-Jun	3	Why God	Job 10	Nick
3-Jul	4	Lows and Highs	Job 19:13-29	Eugene
10-Jul	5	Suffering in Silence	Job 28:12-28	Nick
17-Jul	6	The Whirlwind of Questions	Job 38-41	Eugene
24-Jul	7	Faith and Faithfulness	Job 42	Eugene

**At Living Hope, we believe that we must be
connected relationally to grow spiritually.**

PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

We exist to reach the world for Jesus, one person at a time. We feel that is best done in small, relational environments where biblical disciples can be made. Life Groups are the primary vehicle by which we carry out the vision and mission of Living Hope Community Church. We will be a church that makes disciples, who make disciples of Jesus.

Vision: The vision of our Life Groups is to provide a spiritual community where groups of people are transformed into the image of Christ, growing in their understanding of God's story, and living it out in the context of loving accountability and expected reproduction.

We believe that a definition of a disciple is found in Matthew 4:19: *And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."* Here is how we define disciple: (1) A disciple knows and follows Christ; (2) a disciple is being changed by Christ; and (3) a disciple is committed to the mission of Christ.

I Thessalonians 2

So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments".

John 15:4-5

Remain in Me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing."

We believe that we cannot grow spiritually if we are not connected relationally

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age".

Acts 2:42-47

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

SAFE GROUP: We will strive to create an environment where everyone can be real, open, and honest with their struggles and victories.

CONFIDENTIALITY: What is said in the group stays in the group.

LISTEN: Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond, or what you are going to say next.

PAUSE: Allow a pause in conversation after someone shares. Give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

SILENCE: It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for someone to share and for members in the group to process the topic or questions being considered.

NO "CROSS TALK": Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.

NO FIXING: We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that part. Give encouragement; speak truth; and point to Jesus. Don't try to solve or fix each other.

NO RESCUING: When people are sharing something deeply personal, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause them to stop sharing. Resist the temptation to rescue people.

SHARING: Be sensitive about the amount of time you share.

BE SELF-AWARE: Be self-aware of how you are personally affecting the environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication.

USE "I" STATEMENTS: It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "us", "we", etc.

CONFLICT: We will commit to resolve conflict biblically. When conflict or sin issues between group members arise, we want to make sure that we are honoring God and each other in the way we deal with these issues. The following are a few key Scriptures in this regard (there are many others):

If someone sins against you – Matthew 18:15-20
Restoring someone in sin – Galatians 6:1-5
Forgive a sinner – Colossians 3:12-13
Reconciling differences – Matthew 5:23-26, Matthew 7:1-5

MODEL A LIFE GROUP

Step 1: Welcome:

- Members, visitors, and new believers feel valued and welcomed...
- Starts the moment someone arrives and ends when everyone is gone.

Step 2: Opening Prayer:

- Invites God's Holy Spirit into our presence to prepare our hearts for what God has for us.

Step 3: Purpose/Vision Casting:

- Encourages relationships with God and relationships with others.
- Expresses the purpose of meeting together as a life group and challenges one another to grow and multiply (Branching).

Step 4: Group Guidelines: (see page 5)

Step 5: Follow Up:

- How did last week's discussion impact your week? or
- What did you take away from the sermon? or
- What are you thankful for?

Step 6: Setting the scene:

- Discuss the background to today's passage and the target for today's discussion.

Step 7: Tell the story:

- Read or Tell the passage. Rebuild the story: have the group recreate the passage together.
- Ask if anything was left out?

Step 8: Debrief the story:

- Ask Head (what the Word says), Heart (wrestle with what we believe), and then Hands Questions (bring truth and belief into our everyday realities).
- Remember the 'discussion idea' to help you focus the direction of the discussion.

Step 9: Close in prayer:

- Share personal prayer requests and give everyone an opportunity to pray.



BIBLICAL FOUNDATION FOR RELATIONSHIP

The Bible alone gives a clear and complete picture of what God wants done—His mission—and how He wants it done—His methods. The purpose of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus who can make disciples of Jesus. We do this with the understanding that relationship is the key vehicle.



INTENTIONAL LEADER

An intentional leader understands that part of their role is to reach the lost, make disciples of Jesus, and create Christ-centered environments where disciple-making can happen. They understand where a person is spiritually and what is needed to help them grow.



RELATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

This is a group facilitated by a leader who is intentionally modeling spiritual fruit. They are doing life together with a kingdom mindset. The relationships go beyond just the group time. These relationships press into areas of privacy, transparency, and vulnerability.



REPRODUCIBLE DISCIPLE-MAKING PROCESS

This is the process for developing people toward Christ-likeness.

This includes three parts:

“My Part” the discipler; “Their Part” the disciple, and “God’s Part”.

Leaders understand the Stages of Spiritual Growth and can identify where a person is spiritually and help them mature and grow at each stage.

TIPS FOR ASKING QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS: The following questions are examples that will help you have a base to begin with and will give you ideas for developing your own questions. Be intentional to ask all three types of questions (head, heart, hands) as you lead your discussion.

HEAD

These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

- What do you see God doing, saying, or showing about Himself?
- Who are the people and what is going on with them?
- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What do you think the main point is?
- What does this show us about _____?

You can fill in the blank with - God/man/_____?

(Or the topic of discussion such as worship)

OBSERVATION

HEART

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- What do you see about yourself?
- Have you known anyone who is an example of this?
- What has it looked like when you have or have not known/believed/lived this in your life?
- What questions does this raise for you?

INTERPRETATION

HANDS

These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into everyday realities.

- What is one way you can apply this to your life this week?
- What are you challenged to think/believe/do differently because of this passage and our discussion?
- How can you use this to disciple others?
- How does this impact you? Your relationship with _____?
(Fill in with: family, fellow believers, work-place or community.)

APPLICATION

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

Asking a question after hearing someone's response helps people process and gives everyone better understanding. Follow up questions come from a heart of being interested, curious, and seeking to understand and draw out. They are not intended to grill or corner people.

- What has brought you to that understanding?
- What would be an example?
- Explain a little more.
- What might be another way to look at it?
- How does _____ affect _____?
- What does it mean?

BEFORE GROUP STARTS — YOUR ROLE:

Read through the curriculum and discussion passages. Be aware of what God is showing you personally. Pray for your group members. What do you see God doing in each of them? What is God's part and what is your part as you walk with them? Psalm 119:18, "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law."

WELCOME: (Share a meal, snack, ice-breaker, game or story)

OPEN IN PRAYER

VISION CAST:

Help everyone grow in their relationship with God and others. Remind everyone that spiritual maturity is growing into the image of Jesus and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Encourage everyone to grow in community, to reach out to one another and others through service and the daily rhythms of life. Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINES:

You don't need to read this every week but initially, when someone new comes, and when the series or topic changes is a good time to reorient yourselves to the guidelines. This helps set the tone for the group and helps everyone have clear expectations for each other.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

See the weekly email, bulletin, or website and choose the top 2-3 connections that would benefit your group. Also use this time to give any connections that are specific to your Life Group.

FOLLOW UP & WARM UP:

- What are your expectations for this Group? Which Group Guideline stands out to you?
- What are you thankful for today?
- How would you define suffering? What would be your worse day?

SERIES THEME: Why God

WEEK 1: An Adversary and Adversity

TEXT: Job 1

1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. **2** There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. **3** He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. **4** His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. **5** And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually. **6** Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. **7** The Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." **8** And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" **9** Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? **10** Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. **11** But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." **12** And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord. **13** Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, **14** and there came a messenger to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, **15** and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." **16** While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you." **17** While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." **18** While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, **19** and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you." **20** Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. **21** And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." **22** In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

TELL THE STORY: Retell Job 1

DEBRIEF THE STORY:

Spend time explaining the passage again in your own words. (The meaning of the author's terms, structure, literary form, and atmosphere.)

These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

- What do we learn about God and the spiritual realm from this passage?
- What do we learn about humanity and the spiritual realm from this passage?
- What do we learn about Job? What is his character? What is upstanding about his actions?
- Where does he live? What does he own? Describe his family.
- When did this book take place? When is this book written? Who is the author?
- What is the main idea of this passage?
- What is the genre of this passage and of the Book of Job? What type of literature is this?
- What does the Lord ask Satan and how does he reply?
- What permission does God give Satan in regards to Job? How does he use it?
- What adversity does Job face? What do the messengers say happened to all that Job owned?
- What was Job's physical response? What was his verbal response? What was his heart response?
- How does God feel about Job in the beginning of this passage? at the end?
- What strategy do you see in Satan's actions and communication?
- How could Job have responded in a way that would have been sinful and wrong?

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- Satan's reply in verses 9-11 reveal what about his beliefs and desires regarding man?
- What is Satan trying to accomplish? How has he already accomplished this with some of the angelic beings?
- What is the reason that you fear God? What are your expectations in following God?
- Are possessions a sign of spiritual blessings? Explain.
- What must it have been like to be one of Job's messengers? Share a time when you had to share difficult news with someone. 'What' and 'how' is it important to communicate?
- Why do you think Job did not curse God? What stands out to you about verse 21?
- What does it mean that Job worshipped? What did that look and sound like? How have you been able to 'worship' through adversity?
- How much do you know and understand about the spiritual realm and its implications in the material world? Share a balanced and appropriate view of what we can know and not know.

These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into everyday realities.

- Is there anything that can happen to what you own that would cause you to blame or criticize God?
- Understanding and knowing the character of God is crucial for persevering faith. Take time to discuss and write out the characteristics of the character of God. "God is ..." Also include some verses that declare these truths. Anchor your heart and beliefs there before the storm.
- How can prayer be a source of comfort and peace during difficult times?
- Take time to share and pray for the burdens of one another.
- Share this story with someone. How would you use it to disciple someone?
- Focus on one key takeaway from this passage. What is God impressing upon you to say/ believe/do differently in your life?

BEFORE GROUP STARTS — YOUR ROLE:

Read through the curriculum and discussion passages. Be aware of what God is showing you personally. Pray for your group members. What do you see God doing in each of them? What is God's part and what is your part as you walk with them? Psalm, "119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law."

WELCOME: (Share a meal, snack, ice-breaker, game or story)

OPEN IN PRAYER

VISION CAST:

Help everyone grow in their relationship with God and others. Remind everyone that spiritual maturity is growing into the image of Jesus and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Encourage everyone to grow in community, to reach out to one another and others through service and the daily rhythms of life. Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. "

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINES:

You don't need to read this every week but initially, when someone new comes, and when the series or topic changes is a good time to reorient yourselves to the guidelines. This helps set the tone for the group and helps everyone have clear expectations for each other.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

See the weekly email, bulletin, or website and choose the top 2-3 connections that would benefit your group. Also use this time to give any connections that are specific to your Life Group.

FOLLOW UP & WARM UP:

- *Give Thanks...How did you respond to last time's conversation and next steps? What are you grateful for this day? How have you seen 'God at Work' in your life this week?*
- *What is easier for you to think of... Best day ever or worst day ever? Explain.*
- *What is the greatest act of comfort that has been done for you? How did it make you feel?*

SERIES THEME: Why God**WEEK 2: Made Nothing****TEXT: Job 2**

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. **2** And the Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." **3** And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason." **4** Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. **5** But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." **6** And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life." **7** So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. **8** And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes. **9** Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die." **10** But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips. **11** Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him. **12** And when they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him. And they raised their voices and wept, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads toward heaven. **13** And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

TELL THE STORY: Retell Job 2

DEBRIEF THE STORY:

Spend time explaining the passage again in your own words. (The meaning of the author's terms, structure, literary form, and atmosphere.)

HEAD

These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity?
- What do we learn about angelic beings? Where does Satan mention where he has been?
- What does God ask Satan? What comment does God mention about Job's character?
- What does Satan ask to do? What does he think will be Job's reply?
- How does Satan pain Job's body?
- What was Job's wife's reaction? How did Job reply? Did he sin?
- Who came around to support and care for Job?
- What was said and what was done by the friends?
- Did God not know where Satan had been?
- Why do you think Job was called a 'servant'?
- What reason is stated for the friends not mentioning a word?
- Where is Elihu at this time?
- Is not dying by this suffering a blessing or a curse?

OBSERVATION

HEART

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- Would you rather have the pain of chapter one or two? Explain.
- Would the failure of your flesh and bones cause you to doubt and/or curse God? Explain.
- How would you go about comforting someone going through such pain?
- What shouldn't you say to someone going through a difficult situation?
- Should we expect to receive trouble from the Lord?
- What are some of the reasons for God allowing trials in our life?
- How has God used the brokenness of this world in your life for His glory and your good?
- Are you a more negative or positive person? Explain. What circumstances and/or people are more difficult for you to handle?
- Can we blame everything evil on Satan? Explain. What else could be the cause?
- Can we blame everything evil on our own sin? Explain.
- Having the 'sons of God' present themselves before God reveals what about God's structure?

INTERPRETATION

HANDS

These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into everyday realities.

- Do you know all the possible Care ministries that are at Living Hope? <https://www.livinghopepa.org/care-ministry/> From the food pantry, making meals, cancer team, visiting the sick or shut ins, Mens 1:27, to helping with finances, there are many opportunities to use your spiritual gifts, training, and experiences. Prayerfully consider how you may be a source of comfort.
- Consider praying or writing a support letter to First Responders in your neighborhood. I know the fire department reads every letter written to them at their monthly meetings. Encourage!
- Share this story with someone. How would you use it to disciple someone?
- Focus on one key takeaway from this passage. What is God impressing upon you to say/ believe/do differently in your life?

APPLICATION

BEFORE GROUP STARTS — YOUR ROLE:

Read through the curriculum and discussion passages. Be aware of what God is showing you personally. Pray for your group members. What do you see God doing in each of them? What is God's part and what is your part as you walk with them? Psalm, " 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law."

WELCOME: (Share a meal, snack, ice-breaker, game or story)

OPEN IN PRAYER

VISION CAST:

Help everyone grow in their relationship with God and others. Remind everyone that spiritual maturity is growing into the image of Jesus and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Encourage everyone to grow in community, to reach out to one another and others through service and the daily rhythms of life. Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINES:

You don't need to read this every week but initially, when someone new comes, and when the series or topic changes is a good time to reorient yourselves to the guidelines. This helps set the tone for the group and helps everyone have clear expectations for each other.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

See the weekly email, bulletin, or website and choose the top 2-3 connections that would benefit your group. Also use this time to give any connections that are specific to your Life Group.

FOLLOW UP & WARM UP:

- *Give Thanks...How did you respond to last time's conversation and next steps? What are you grateful for this day? How have you seen 'God at Work' in your life this week?*
- *What one question would you ask God today if you could?*
- *When have you experienced the goodness of God?*

SERIES THEME: Why God

WEEK 3: Why God

TEXT: Job 10

"I loathe my life; I will give free utterance to my complaint; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. **2** I will say to God, Do not condemn me; let me know why you contend against me. **3** Does it seem good to you to oppress, to despise the work of your hands and favor the designs of the wicked? **4** Have you eyes of flesh? Do you see as man sees? **5** Are your days as the days of man, or your years as a man's years, **6** that you seek out my iniquity and search for my sin, **7** although you know that I am not guilty, and there is none to deliver out of your hand? **8** Your hands fashioned and made me, and now you have destroyed me altogether. **9** Remember that you have made me like clay; and will you return me to the dust? **10** Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese? **11** You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews. **12** You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit. **13** Yet these things you hid in your heart; I know that this was your purpose. **14** If I sin, you watch me and do not acquit me of my iniquity. **15** If I am guilty, woe to me! If I am in the right, I cannot lift up my head, for I am filled with disgrace and look on my affliction. **16** And were my head lifted up, you would hunt me like a lion and again work wonders against me. **17** You renew your witnesses against me and increase your vexation toward me; you bring fresh troops against me. **18** "Why did you bring me out from the womb? Would that I had died before any eye had seen me **19** and were as though I had not been, carried from the womb to the grave. **20** Are not my days few? Then cease, and leave me alone, that I may find a little cheer **21** before I go—and I shall not return—to the land of darkness and deep shadow, **22** the land of gloom like thick darkness, like deep shadow without any order, where light is as thick darkness."

TELL THE STORY: Retell Job 10

DEBRIEF THE STORY:

Spend time explaining the passage again in your own words. (The meaning of the author's terms, structure, literary form, and atmosphere.)

HEAD

These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity?
- What type of genre is this passage?
- How many questions do you see in this passage? What is the theme?
- How does Job challenge God?
- What has God's hand done to Job? Has God been inconsistent with Job?
- What is Job blaming God of in verses 13-17?
- What does Job ask God for? Why?
- What four words for darkness are used in the final four verses?
- How does Job's speech end? What is the mood?
- Does Job believe that God is sovereign in these verses? Explain.

OBSERVATION

HEART

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- Are questions a good way to make sense of a difficult reality? Who do you typically confide in? How do you work through what it is that you really need to know or understand?
- When do you feel like God is acting in a way that contradicts His character?
- How do you understand the 'silence' of God? What do we do when we think God is not revealing Himself to us? How do we know God hears and sees us?
- Have you ever struggled with the fairness of God? Explain. What truth or thoughts would you give to someone struggling with this?
- Why do you think you were born? What is your purpose?
- What does the compassion and love of God look and feel like in the mist of a storm?
- What purposes can you know are behind some of our sufferings? Root them in Scripture.
- Is there greater risk in keeping your pain to yourself or by sharing it with a friend? Explain.

INTERPRETATION

HANDS

These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into everyday realities.

- What is it that you are Lamenting? What about 2022 can you lament?
- Take time to write out a lament to God on behalf of someone or some heartbreaking situation. Allow your soul to cry out to God and to Jesus as your Creator and intercessor.
- Use a metaphor to describe the brokenness that you have felt. Think through a word picture to describe what God has done for you. Share them with a friend.
- Find a current song that either encourages you right now or describes some of the pain you are facing. Share that with someone.
- Prayerfully think through a current critique you may have of someone. Is it valid? Are you speaking only condemnation or is there also a 'building up' being done?
- Share this story with someone. How would you use it to disciple someone?
- Focus on one key takeaway from this passage. What is God impressing upon you to say/believe/do differently in your life?

APPLICATION

WEEK 4: JULY 3, 2022

BEFORE GROUP STARTS — YOUR ROLE:

Read through the curriculum and discussion passages. Be aware of what God is showing you personally. Pray for your group members. What do you see God doing in each of them? What is God's part and what is your part as you walk with them? Psalm, "119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law."

WELCOME: (Share a meal, snack, ice-breaker, game or story)

OPEN IN PRAYER

VISION CAST:

Help everyone grow in their relationship with God and others. Remind everyone that spiritual maturity is growing into the image of Jesus and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Encourage everyone to grow in community, to reach out to one another and others through service and the daily rhythms of life. Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINES:

You don't need to read this every week but initially, when someone new comes, and when the series or topic changes is a good time to reorient yourselves to the guidelines. This helps set the tone for the group and helps everyone have clear expectations for each other.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

See the weekly email, bulletin, or website and choose the top 2-3 connections that would benefit your group. Also use this time to give any connections that are specific to your Life Group.

FOLLOW UP & WARM UP:

- *Give Thanks...How did you respond to last time's conversation and next steps? What are you grateful for this day? How have you seen 'God at Work' in your life this week?*
- *Do you have a funny joke? Share the laugh with someone. (Ex...My mechanic told me, "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder.")*
- *Share a time when you tried to repair something by first watching a youtube video. How did that go? Are you pleased with the results? Looking back, would you do it yourself?*

SERIES THEME: Why God**WEEK 4: Lows and Highs****TEXT: Job 19:13-29**

13 "He has put my brothers far from me, and those who knew me are wholly estranged from me. **14** My relatives have failed me, my close friends have forgotten me. **15** The guests in my house and my maidservants count me as a stranger; I have become a foreigner in their eyes. **16** I call to my servant, but he gives me no answer; I must plead with him with my mouth for mercy. **17** My breath is strange to my wife, and I am a stench to the children of my own mother. **18** Even young children despise me; when I rise they talk against me. **19** All my intimate friends abhor me, and those whom I loved have turned against me. **20** My bones stick to my skin and to my flesh, and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth. **21** Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! **22** Why do you, like God, pursue me? Why are you not satisfied with my flesh? **23** "Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! **24** Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever! **25** For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. **26** And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, **27** whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me! **28** If you say, 'How we will pursue him!' and, 'The root of the matter is found in him,' **29** be afraid of the sword, for wrath brings the punishment of the sword, that you may know there is a judgment."

TELL THE STORY: Retell Job 19:13-29

DEBRIEF THE STORY:

Spend time explaining the passage again in your own words. (The meaning of the author's terms, structure, literary form, and atmosphere.)

HEAD

These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity?
- What do you think is the theme of these verses?
- Divide this passage into two sections. What verse do you notice a change? What would your outline be? Any sub-points?
- How does Job describe his relationships? What do dear friends and strangers think about him?
- Why does Job ask for mercy?
- Where do you see irony in this passage?
- What is Job's hope? What will happen to his flesh?
- Why does Job wish that his words were written in a book?
- What does Job believe is true of the end?
- What name does Job give God in this passage? What does it mean?
- Does Job ever receive vindication?
- Where do you see resurrection in this passage?

OBSERVATION

HEART

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- Do you get more joy thinking and talking about the present or the future? Explain.
- Do you plan more for the near future or the distant future? Explain.
- What kind of a friend do you think you are? Do people confide in you? Do they seek you out? Are your friends happy to see you? What do they know about you?
- Have you ever felt forgotten? Do you feel unappreciated? Explain when and why.
- What will the Judgment seat of God be like? Is judgment a dreadful thought to you? Explain.
- How can faith appear at the moment of your deepest despair?
- What does the justice of God look like? Will evil and good see their due reward?
- How would you comfort someone who was fearful of death? How can pointing to a Redeemer be helpful and bring peace?

INTERPRETATION

HANDS

These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into everyday realities.

- Share your thoughts on Resurrection. Will it be physical or spiritual? When will it take place? How long will it last? What will be our fellowship with one another and God?
- At work or home this week observe words and actions that are hopeful and hopeless. Take note and ask God how you can be a redeemer to those that are hopeless and point to their ultimate Redeemer. Encourage the encouragers...they need it too.
- The Justice of God guarantees the safety of those that trust in Jesus. If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Take a moment to praise God for His mercy and promises. Pray for those who you know that are currently paying no attention to the holy justice of God and their Eternal future.
- Share this story with someone. How would you use it to disciple someone?
- Focus on one key takeaway from this passage. What is God impressing upon you to say/ believe/do differently in your life?

APPLICATION

BEFORE GROUP STARTS — YOUR ROLE:

Read through the curriculum and discussion passages. Be aware of what God is showing you personally. Pray for your group members. What do you see God doing in each of them? What is God's part and what is your part as you walk with them? Psalm, "119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. "

WELCOME: (Share a meal, snack, ice-breaker, game or story)

OPEN IN PRAYER

VISION CAST:

Help everyone grow in their relationship with God and others. Remind everyone that spiritual maturity is growing into the image of Jesus and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Encourage everyone to grow in community, to reach out to one another and others through service and the daily rhythms of life. Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control; against such things there is no law. "

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINES:

You don't need to read this every week but initially, when someone new comes, and when the series or topic changes is a good time to reorient yourselves to the guidelines. This helps set the tone for the group and helps everyone have clear expectations for each other.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

See the weekly email, bulletin, or website and choose the top 2-3 connections that would benefit your group. Also use this time to give any connections that are specific to your Life Group.

FOLLOW UP & WARM UP:

- Give Thanks...How did you respond to last time's conversation and next steps? What are you grateful for this day? How have you seen 'God at Work' in your life this week?
- Who is the wisest person that you know? What about their wisdom have you noticed?
- The rich men want it, the wise men know it, the poor all need it, and the kind men show it. What is it?

SERIES THEME: Why God

WEEK 5: Suffering in Silence

TEXT: Job 28:12-28

“But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? **13** Man does not know its worth, and it is not found in the land of the living. **14** The deep says, ‘It is not in me,’ and the sea says, ‘It is not with me.’ **15** It cannot be bought for gold, and silver cannot be weighed as its price. **16** It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, in precious onyx or sapphire. **17** Gold and glass cannot equal it, nor can it be exchanged for jewels of fine gold. **18** No mention shall be made of coral or of crystal; the price of wisdom is above pearls. **19** The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, nor can it be valued in pure gold. **20** “From where, then, does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding? **21** It is hidden from the eyes of all living and concealed from the birds of the air. **22** Abaddon and Death say, ‘We have heard a rumor of it with our ears.’ **23** “God understands the way to it and he knows its place. **24** For he looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens. **25** When he gave to the wind its weight and apportioned the waters by measure, **26** when he made a decree for the rain and a way for the lightning of the thunder, **27** then he saw it and declared it; he established it, and searched it out. **28** And he said to man, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.’”

TELL THE STORY: Retell Job 28:12-28

DEBRIEF THE STORY:

Spend time explaining the passage again in your own words. (The meaning of the author’s terms, structure, literary form, and atmosphere.)

These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity?
- Can God's wisdom be comprehended? Where can it be found?
- Can wisdom be bought? Can great effort harness it?
- Why can't an animal, bird or creature in the sea, see wisdom?
- Can the living find it? Can it be found in death?
- What do these sayings reveal to these four who have been making these speeches?
- Does God understand true wisdom? Explain.
- What do verses 24-26 teach us about God's wisdom?
- What is the end of the matter? What is man's responsibility? Where else in Scripture (see the other wisdom literature) is this mentioned?
- What establishes God's wisdom? Is He omnipresent and omnipotent?
- What does it mean to fear God?
- Was Job wise?

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- Will you ever know the reason for your suffering here on earth? Explain.
- There are some in the church culture who claim to know all that God is doing in the world and in other people's lives. How is that disproved by these words and a real disservice to the people and church of God?
- Can modern technology be helpful to people in finding the hidden treasure of wisdom?
- Do you value gold, silver, rubies or crystals as more valuable than wisdom? Explain.
- Why would Job mention that death wouldn't know wisdom? Is that thought by some? Explain.
- How can you submit to God when you may not understand His ways?
- Many times we desire to use wisdom to remove our suffering or redirect it. What might godly wisdom say to our suffering that might be against reason and our normal understanding?

These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into everyday realities.

- Trust and Obey! Trust and Obey! Trust and Obey! Trust and Obey! Trust and Obey!
- Honor God and Reject evil! How can you submit to God today in spite of not understanding all that He is up to? What sin may you need to repent from? Are you wise?
- This summer is a great time to reflect on creation and how it points to a Wise Creator. What have you noticed so far? What can you discover on land or in the sea of God's wisdom?
- Share some of the 'church wisdom' that has been misguided and destructive in helping people through pain and suffering. Ex. 'You just need to believe more' or 'there must be something evil in your life' or 'it will all work out in the end'
- Share this story with someone. How would you use it to disciple someone?
- Focus on one key takeaway from this passage. What is God impressing upon you to say/ believe/do differently in your life?

BEFORE GROUP STARTS — YOUR ROLE:

Read through the curriculum and discussion passages. Be aware of what God is showing you personally. Pray for your group members. What do you see God doing in each of them? What is God's part and what is your part as you walk with them? Psalm, "119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. "

WELCOME: (Share a meal, snack, ice-breaker, game or story)

OPEN IN PRAYER

VISION CAST:

Help everyone grow in their relationship with God and others. Remind everyone that spiritual maturity is growing into the image of Jesus and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Encourage everyone to grow in community, to reach out to one another and others through service and the daily rhythms of life. Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control; against such things there is no law. "

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINES:

You don't need to read this every week but initially, when someone new comes, and when the series or topic changes is a good time to reorient yourselves to the guidelines. This helps set the tone for the group and helps everyone have clear expectations for each other.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

See the weekly email, bulletin, or website and choose the top 2-3 connections that would benefit your group. Also use this time to give any connections that are specific to your Life Group.

FOLLOW UP & WARM UP:

- *Give Thanks...How did you respond to last time's conversation and next steps? What are you grateful for this day? How have you seen 'God at Work' in your life this week?*
- *Have you ever felt like you experienced a 'word' from the Lord? Not an audible voice, but an intensely real and personal word or direction from God to you. If so, explain what that was like.*
- *Share a moment when you knew that you were in over your head.You went too far, committed too strong, and regretted the moment. Explain what that was and what it felt like. What did you do?*

SERIES THEME: Why God**WEEK 6: The Whirlwind of Questions****TEXT: Job 38 - 41**

38 Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: **2** "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? **3** Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. **4** "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. **5** Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? **6** On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, **7** when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? **8** "Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, **9** when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, **10** and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, **11** and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed'? **12** "Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, **13** that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? **14** It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. **15** From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken. **16** "Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? **17** Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? **18** Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this. **19** "Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of darkness, **20** that you may take it to its territory and that you may discern the paths to its home? **21** You know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great! **22** "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail, **23** which I have reserved for the time of trouble for the day of battle and war? **24** What is the way to the place where the light is distributed, or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth? **25** "Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain and a way for the thunderbolt **26** to bring rain on a land where no man is, on the desert in which there is no man, **27** to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground sprout with grass? **28** "Has the rain a father or who has begotten the drops of dew? **29** From whose womb did the ice come forth, and who has given birth to the frost of heaven? **30** The waters become hard like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. **31** "Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion? **32** Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children? **33** Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth? **34** "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that a flood of waters may cover you? **35** Can you send forth lightnings, that they may go and say to you, 'Here we are'? **36** Who has put wisdom in the inward parts or given understanding to the mind? **37** Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, **38** when the dust runs into a mass and the clods stick fast together? **39** "Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, **40** when they crouch in their dens or lie in wait in their thicket? **41** Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God for help, and wander about for lack of food?

TELL THE STORY: Retell Job 38-41

DEBRIEF THE STORY:

Spend time explaining the passage again in your own words. (The meaning of the author's terms, structure, literary form, and atmosphere.)

HEAD

These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity?
- Out of what, does the Lord answer Job? Why is that important?
- What word for God is used here that hasn't been mentioned since the prologue?
- How many questions does God ask Job?
- What is the mood or tone of this response?
- What parts of the original Creation does God mention?
- What aspects of the earth, sky and sea is brought up in question?
- What natural disasters are mentioned?
- What provisions and cares are mentioned that God provides for?
- What is Job's response to God in chapter 40?
- What constellations are mentioned in this passage as well as heavenly beings?

OBSERVATION

HEART

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- Did God ever tell Job about the reason for his pain or suffering?
- Since we are not eternal or powerful or perfect should we never approach and ask God anything? Should we only obey and never bring questions to God?
- How have you been humbled in this life? Was that ultimately for the best?
- Since God is in control of the world, how should that impact our lives?
- In one sense Job was made to feel insignificant, but in another sense this Holy Wise Creator is his God and portion. He has made nothing insignificant! How does this passage humble and encourage you?
- Is your mental image of God too small? How can you expand your understanding of God? In what ways have you been trying to make yourself equal to God?

INTERPRETATION

HANDS

These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into everyday realities.

- Take a moment and look up at the stars this week! God is in control. Try to find a constellation or two.
- Read chapters 39 and 40 which continue the theme of God's power and control of His world. Rejoice and Praise God. Try to understand the Behemoth and Leviathan!
- What verse can you memorize this week?
- What spiritual discipline can you practice this week to keep you humble in the presence of God?
- Share this story with someone. How would you use it to disciple someone?
- Focus on one takeaway from this passage. What is God impressing upon you to say/believe/do differently in your life?

APPLICATION

BEFORE GROUP STARTS — YOUR ROLE:

Read through the curriculum and discussion passages. Be aware of what God is showing you personally. Pray for your group members. What do you see God doing in each of them? What is God's part and what is your part as you walk with them? Psalm, "119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. "

WELCOME: (Share a meal, snack, ice-breaker, game or story)

OPEN IN PRAYER

VISION CAST:

Help everyone grow in their relationship with God and others. Remind everyone that spiritual maturity is growing into the image of Jesus and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Encourage everyone to grow in community, to reach out to one another and others through service and the daily rhythms of life. Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control; against such things there is no law. "

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINES:

You don't need to read this every week but initially, when someone new comes, and when the series or topic changes is a good time to reorient yourselves to the guidelines. This helps set the tone for the group and helps everyone have clear expectations for each other.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

See the weekly email, bulletin, or website and choose the top 2-3 connections that would benefit your group. Also use this time to give any connections that are specific to your Life Group.

FOLLOW UP & WARM UP:

- *Give Thanks...How did you respond to last time's conversation and next steps? What are you grateful for this day? How have you seen 'God at Work' in your life this week?*
- *Can you imagine what it will be like to one day see Jesus? Try to picture it. What will that day be like?*
- *Share you favorite ending to a story, movie, or book? What happens? Why do you love it?*

SERIES THEME: Why God

WEEK 7: Faith and Faithfulness

TEXT: Job 42

Then Job answered the Lord and said: **2** "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. **3** 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. **4** 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.' **5** I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; **6** therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes." **7** After the Lord had spoken these words to Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. **8** Now therefore take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves. And my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly. For you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has." **9** So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did what the Lord had told them, and the Lord accepted Job's prayer. **10** And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. **11** Then came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and ate bread with him in his house. And they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him. And each of them gave him a piece of money and a ring of gold. **12** And the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. And he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. **13** He had also seven sons and three daughters. **14** And he called the name of the first daughter Jemimah, and the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-happuch. **15** And in all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters. And their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. **16** And after this Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, four generations. **17** And Job died, an old man, and full of days.

TELL THE STORY: Retell Job 42

DEBRIEF THE STORY:

Spend time explaining the passage again in your own words. (The meaning of the author's terms, structure, literary form, and atmosphere.)

These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity?
- What is the heart of Job's reply? What does he regret?
- God's reply to him was more than words but also included what?
- What were God's words concerning Job's friends? What did God ask Job's friends to do? What did he ask Job to do on behalf of his friends?
- What does not mentioning Elihu mean in regards to his words?
- How was Job vindicated? What did the Lord give him?
- How many more years did Job live? How many more cattle?
- What is mentioned about Job's daughters? What does this conclusion teach us about the author and timing of this book?
- What do we learn about Job's wife?

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- Does Job ever deny God and curse him? He is faithful to the end! What does that teach us about true saving faith?
- Why was God angry with Job's friends? Are there any partial truths that you are telling or living by that make a caricature of God? Take time to ask a trusted friend to share some of your blind spots that they have been noticing.
- The only real innocent person to suffer was Jesus and He went to the cross for you and me. What love! His pain also makes Him a faithful and merciful High Priest who is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. You are not suffering alone!
- Suffering for Jesus is a gift. How has God used it in your life for repentance, refining, and renewal?
- Share how you have persevered in suffering and why and how you continue to trust God.

These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into everyday realities.

- God redeemed Job's life and then made him an intercessor on behalf of his friends. Who may God be putting on your heart to pray for? Lift them up in this week and pray for restoration and grace.
- Will suffering for Jesus always result in blessing? Explain.
- When we are resurrected and with our Lord forever there will be no regrets, only a hand over our mouths in wonder of the wisdom and compassion of our God. Be ready to answer someone who questions if God is fair, good, and compassionate?
- Share this story with someone. How would you use it to disciple someone?
- Focus on one key takeaway from this passage. What is God impressing upon you to say/believe/do differently in your life?

LIFE GROUP



22H West Route 313
Perkasie, PA 18944

www.LivingHopePA.org/lifegroups
215-249-1133