

The Common Thread

JOB: The Complexities of Justice and Suffering

Community Group Questions

1. What were your general impressions and takeaways from the Job video shown in this message? (Try to focus more on the content than the style, voiceover, or value of production.)
2. How do most of us define fairness and justice? What are the limits and exceptions to our functional definitions?
3. Have you received every bad thing you really deserve? Has every good thing you've experienced been a direct result of your good actions? Discuss the difficulty of being honest about here outside of comparing ourselves to others.
4. We know that Job's friends were certain and vocal about, but that they were also wrong. In what ways are many Christians today speaking definitively on issues that scripture does not lead us to be certain about? What are the results?
5. Discuss these Observations About God's Ways and Nature:
 - a. God didn't send the suffering... the Accuser did. God did allow it, but He was also right about Job's ultimate end being for his good.
 - b. God did not give the Accuser the ultimate right to even inflict the suffering on man. Adam and Eve did. The possibility of suffering was allowed by us, though again, God did give us the right to choose. A state of suffering was not God's original and best intention for us—we have chosen it.
 - c. God made it clear that Job's suffering was not divine punishment for wrongs committed, so if we define justice only by our own arbitrary rubric of cause-effect for good-bad committed, we're not judging as God judges.
 - d. Though He corrected him, God honored Job's struggle, honesty, and prayer.
 - e. In the end, God not only restored, but also disproportionately blessed.