

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Job Series

These questions are for the **January 6, 2019** sermon, "For No Reason?" Please read the sermon passage (Job 1:1-12) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE CONSIDER THE TENSION BETWEEN GOD AND SUFFERING, NOTE . . .

1. The personal characteristics which are valued by God (1-5)
 - a. God views Job as both "blameless" and "upright" (who Job is).
 - i. Job was not sinless, but walked before God in an upright way.
 - ii. NOTE: Job is well aware of his own sin (Job 13:23)
 - b. Job has many possessions, and he realizes that God owns them all (stuff Job has).
 - i. It is God's right to remove everything.
 - ii. "Who you are" is greater than "what you have."
 - iii. Job invests all of his resources faithfully as he PARENTS his adult children.
 1. He "pays the price," making sacrifices on behalf of his children.
 2. He rises early to pray for his adult children.
 3. He does these things faithfully; continually.
2. The cosmic struggle which is addressed by God (6-12)
 - a. Note the cosmic courtroom scene, which God sovereignly presides over.
 - b. In the cosmic struggle of good and evil, God is sovereign, and takes the initiative . . .
 - i. God questions Satan, even as he knows exactly what Satan has been doing (7)
 - ii. God allows the blameless to be tested in order to prove their faithfulness (8)
 1. Satan wants to take the blessings, but he can never remove the grace.
 2. Satan thinks that if the comfort is gone, the faithfulness will soon follow.
 - iii. God sovereignly limits the extent and length of Satan's influence.
 1. How many people have been given hope by Job's faithfulness?
 2. Satan removes what Job has, but Job remains faithful to his LORD.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The LORD describes Job as blameless, upright, God-fearing and one who turns away from evil (1). As the world around us grapples with the tension between the existence of an all-good and completely sovereign LORD and the existence of sin and evil in this world, the character and integrity of those who fear the Lord is crucial. Discuss.
2. Based on #1, above: Even after his children were adults, Job was an upright father. Note there is not one reference of words that he said to his adult children in this passage. Instead, Job privately invested his resources before the Lord (sacrificed), rose early to pray for his children and did this continually. How does Job's example inform your private life?
3. Based on #1, above: While Satan may be given enough influence to remove stuff from you (including people, health and wealth), he cannot influence your standing before God in Jesus Christ. Satan is fixated on removing the stuff. God is immovable in holding you near. Discuss.
4. Based on #2, above: The LORD sovereignly allows and limits the influence of Satan in this world. While Satan can seem to remove the blessing, he can never remove the grace. Discuss.