

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Job Series

These questions are for the **February 3, 2019** sermon, "A Season of Lament." Please read the sermon passage (Job 3:1-26) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE COMFORT THOSE WHO ARE IN A SEASON OF LAMENT, UNDERSTAND . . .

1. The terms being used, whenever the beginnings of life are described. (1-10)
 - a. Job does NOT use his words to "curse God," as Satan had schemed.
 - i. Job "curses" the day of his own birth. Reality: Life can be bitter.
 - ii. Note that he uses, "Eloah," not "Yahweh," showing distance from God.
 - b. Lessons for the counselor . . .
 - i. Let the brokenhearted lament, pouring out their grief. Don't interrupt.
 - ii. Don't try to prove some theological point. Just listen.
 - iii. Learn to understand seasons. It can be too soon to say true things . . .
2. The questions being posed, whenever the day of birth is being described. (11-19)
 - a. Job is wrestling with the "why" questions. "Why was I even born?" (etc.)
 - b. Lessons for the counselor . . .
 - i. Don't try to answer the "why" questions that God has not clearly answered.
 - ii. Answering "Why I hurt?" is less than important than "Am I trusting the One who heals?" But the wise counselor may have to wait for an opportunity.
3. The longings being expressed, whenever the end of life is being described. (20-26)
 - a. Job seeks relief, not through God, but through death.
 - i. The end would stop his suffering.
 - ii. He sees that God has removed his "hedge" of protection, for no reason (23).
 - b. For the counselor . . .
 - i. The counselor himself/herself must not be obsessed with their own "ashes."
 - ii. A "roaring fire" of present contentment in Christ will help the counselor greatly.
 - iii. If you ask "Why me, God?" let it be, "Why have You been so good to me?"

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: As a counselor, focus on the beautiful "wins." In this case, Job did NOT use his words to "curse God." Do you have someone in your life that you are providing counsel to? Without naming names, list something God-honoring things they are doing while they lament.
2. based on #1, above: Many times, especially at the beginning of a time of grief, the counselor would be wise to say nothing all, but to show up, sit down, and listen. How has your life been helped by silent friends? How can you improve at silence?
3. Based on #2, above: Have you ever tried to answer "why" questions that God doesn't answer? Why is this so difficult for us to resist? How much damage might premature guessing about God's purposes do?
4. Based on #3, above: A good counselor needs to acknowledge "yesterday's ashes" while living with a present "roaring fire" of contentment in Christ. How have your ashes from yesterday been consumed by God's goodness to you? Do you ask, "Why me?" Or "Why have you been so good to me?" Does your counsel focus on the past? Or the present/future?