

Discussion questions: “Don’t Waste the Pain: Growing through Difficulties”

1. (Job 1:1,5, 20-22) How did Job’s attitude toward God motivate his daily behavior? How can we cultivate a healthy fear of God? How do you imagine his influence affected his children’s behavior and attitudes?
2. (Job 1:20-22) What did Job demand from God regarding the good life? Why/why not? How do we fall in the trap of our culture of having an “entitlement mentality”? How does suffering serve to reveal the underlying motives of our hearts? What enables the Christian to praise God in all situations?
3. (I Corinthians 12:26-27; Hebrews 13:3) How should we respond to another’s struggle? What can impede this healthy reaction? What realities of being a Christian ought help us respond with compassion to fellow believers in pain or need?
4. (Job 2:11-13; Romans 12:15) What healthy initial response do we observe from Job’s friends? How does our empathy help strengthen a struggling friend?
5. (Job 4:2-7) Where did Job’s friends begin to err in their ministry to their friend? What are ways we can truly encourage those who profoundly suffer? Are there ways we can unintentionally increase their struggle?
6. (Job 38:1-5) How did God respond to Job’s insistence for God to explain Himself for the suffering he was experiencing? How might you have reacted if God responded to your questions in such a direct fashion? What new insight did Job gain into God’s wisdom and plan?
7. (Job 42:1-6) How did Job’s relationship with God change through his suffering? What were some of the changes in his perspective after encountering God in the midst of the pain? How does pain help simplify and clarify some of the central questions of life?
8. How does pain help us to change perspective on what is really important in life and eternity? Are there areas of struggling in your life that we could pray for?