

## Small Group Discussion Guide — February 6, 2022

- Series: More than Words
  - Sermon: Job: Suffering, Grief, & Being Remade
  - Sermon Scripture: Job 9:32-35, Job 42:1-5
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### **FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK**

Reflecting on the last sermon, what “kings” did you notice in your own life as you went through your week?

### **CONNECT**

1. What is your favorite winter activity to do? Why?
2. What specific themes have you noticed as you read through the Bible? How has your reading shaped the way in which you view the world around you, and changed the way in which you interact with others? How do you feel it shaping your relationship with Jesus?

### **DISCUSS**

Read Job 9:32-35

- David Dwight describes suffering as a lasting experience, common to every human being. How do you respond to those around you who are in pain? In the same manner in which Job’s friends responded? With words of comfort? In silent gratitude that their pain is not your pain? With an offer of soft companionship in the grief? By running away? How does the absolute knowledge of the universality of suffering affect the way in which you might respond going forward?
- How might you paraphrase Job’s words? What do you think Job is getting at by using the metaphor of a courtroom encounter? What does this suggest about Job’s understanding of God and His glory?

Read Job 42:1-5

- Compare this passage with the first. What is similar, and what is different?
- What do these passages, read side-by-side suggest about how suffering may have shaped Job, and affected his relationship with God?
- The title of this sermon is “Suffering, Grief, and Being Remade.” Explain your understanding of how these concepts are linked. Can you think of times in your own life of deep suffering, and how they affected you and your relationship with God?

## **APPLICATION**

David said that the experience of suffering confronts *falseness* and *superficiality* in our hearts. Think of a time you have gone through some level of suffering. What did you learn about the things you really believed? About the things you held most dear? About what you think about God and His posture towards you? How did this experience of suffering affect your faith and life with God? Has your perspective of this experience changed over time? If so, how?

## **PRAYER**

Oh Lord, our God. How easy it is for us to see the world through our narrow lenses, viewing pain and suffering as your unjust rewards, levied upon us to endure, alone, with no chance for justice. But thank you for your grace and the ears to hear the echoes of your glory and eyes to see the wonder of your deeds. For the confidence that You, and only You, can use suffering, to complete the work you have begun in us. Teach us to depend on your wisdom and your glory, even when it lies beyond our limited perspective, and perhaps, even, to find comfort in your power over that which we cannot understand. Amen.

## **GOING DEEPER**

*If anyone in your group attended or listened to the Sunday night discussion, feel free to incorporate questions and thoughts here.*

*Also, use the [resource webpage](#) throughout the series*

## **SUPPORTING VERSES**

Job 13:15

Psalm 18:19

Psalm 34:18

Psalm 56:8

## **QUOTATIONS (AND MORE!)**

“Without the pain, there is no true love. And in some ways, the power of love increases as the suffering is endured. Knowing Christ’s pain takes me to a deeper place with Him. The pain of Christ and the forgiveness of our sins are at the core of the gospel.”

*John Perkins*

“Slowly the clouds lift. What I saw then was tears, a weeping God, suffering over my suffering. I had not realized that if God loves the world, God suffers; I had thoughtlessly supposed that God loved without suffering.”

*Nicholas Wolterstorff*

“There is only one thing that I dread: not to be worthy of my sufferings.”

*Fodor Dostoyevsky*

“It is noteworthy that when Job finally stood before God he was completely satisfied and at rest, though not a single one of his questions about his sufferings had been answered. His questions were good questions. He did not sin in asking

them. But in the light of God himself they were simply pointless. They just drop away and lose their interest.”

*Dallas Willard*

## HARROWING

The plow has savaged this sweet field  
Misshapen clods of earth kicked up  
Rocks and twisted roots exposed to view  
Last year's growth demolished by the blade.  
I have plowed my life this way  
Turned over a whole history  
Looking for the roots of what went wrong  
Until my face is ravaged, furrowed, scarred.  
Enough; the job is done.  
Whatever's been uprooted,  
Let it be Seedbed for the growing that's to come.  
I plowed to unearth last year's reasons —  
The farmer plows to plant a greening season.

*Parker Palmer*

## 7 THINGS TO DO DURING SUFFERING

1. CREATE a library of verses of God's help and promises in suffering.
2. CONSIDER Jesus' sufferings; and God's grief as His father.
3. PRAY deeply for closeness to God while expressing your grief to Him.
4. SHARE your sadness and brokenness with the right trusted people.
5. PURSUE the perspective of how you are being made more beautiful.
6. JOURNAL your thoughts and feelings to God and what's changing in you.

**INCREASE your knowledge and understanding of heaven.**