



SERMON STUDY

GUIDE

Small Group Guide: Job chapter 1 & 2

Open with Prayer

Discussion Questions:

1. **Discuss this quote and perspective:** "You may not think of suffering as a spiritual discipline, but it is. To suffer well, I believe, would be to endure all types of hardship while never forgetting, forfeiting, or relinquishing our identity in Christ; and giving thanks for it all."
2. The sermon reminds us to be prepared for suffering, citing 1 Peter 4.12 and John 16.33. Why do you think we're often surprised by trials, and how can we practically prepare our hearts and minds for them?
3. In the section on self-inflicted suffering (1 Peter 4.15; Philippians 2.12-13), how do we distinguish between suffering from our own sinful choices and trials allowed by God for other reasons? Discuss the balance between eternal forgiveness and real-world consequences.
4. Reflecting on Chapter 2 (Job 2.6-7), the sermon asks: "Do you serve God only for benefits?" How might "sensuous unbelief" (relying on feelings over God's Word) show up in our faith during hard times, and what can we do to combat it?
5. The sermon explains that suffering reveals our character and faith's quality (1 Corinthians 3.10-15; 1 Peter 1.7). Can you share an example from your life where suffering exposed something about your trust in God—positive or negative?
6. Drawing from "More Than Conquerors" (Romans 8.35-39), what does it mean to be "more than conquerors" in trials? How does this passage encourage perseverance when we're tempted to quit?
7. In the conclusion, we're called to endure, worship, and thank God amid suffering. This week, how can you apply this by examining your trials and

clinging to His promises? What one step will you take to worship God more intentionally?

Key Takeaways:

1. **Prepare for Suffering as Part of Faith:** Suffering is inevitable in a broken world (1 Peter 4.12; John 16.33), but it's not random—trust God's sovereignty and distinguish between self-inflicted consequences and trials that test your devotion.
2. **Let Suffering Reveal and Refine Your Faith:** Trials strip away comforts to expose the true quality of your trust in God (1 Corinthians 3.10-15; 1 Peter 1.7), turning pain into sanctification and making you more like Christ—avoid relying on feelings over His Word.
3. **Endure with Worship and Hope:** Nothing can separate you from Christ's love (Romans 8.35-39), so persevere in trials by examining yourself, thanking God, and clinging to His promises—He uses suffering for eternal glory.

Practical Applications:

1. **Name Your Trials and Give Thanks Daily:** Each morning, list one current trial (like Job's sudden losses in Job 1.13-19) and thank God for something good in it, even if it's small. For example, like a friend who helps or a lesson learned. Use Job's words: "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1.21). This builds a habit of gratitude, no matter what.
2. **Trust God's Control Through Prayer:** When worry hits, pray about God's boundaries on your suffering (like He set for Job in Job 1.12). Ask Him to show you how He's in control, maybe by reading a "sudden" Bible story like Jesus calming the storm (Mark 4.39). Do this before bed to remind yourself God is close and not surprised by your pain.
3. **Worship in Tough Moments Like Job:** When something hard happens, pause to worship – sing a song, pray on your knees, or thank God out loud (like Job did in Job 1.20). Allow God to turn your pain into preparation.

Close in Prayer