

Family Worship Guide – Week 4

READ

- Job 1
- Job endured a long period of mourning, sickness and continued suffering. These events are detailed throughout the remainder of the book of Job (until chapter 42).
- Job 42:12-17
- The reason for Job's trials may not be obvious when we read this story. God's ways are often mysterious to us.

However, we do know Job's life has been an age-old example of trusting in God during suffering. Suffering, as Job did, seems always to bring up the question 'Why?' Why would God allow bad things to happen? Why is there suffering in the world? And the list could go on.

These questions are not bad questions and they have answers, even if those answers are veiled to us in this lifetime. However, if we stop the conversation by only asking 'Why,' then we may miss the very design of suffering in our lives. If we follow Christ and believe our lives are solely for His glory, His word tells us to rejoice in suffering. Indeed, we are called to boast about suffering (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

Why boast in affliction? It seems like a strange response to suffering—rejoicing?

However, as followers of Christ, it is important for us to see that suffering and trials are moments of opportunity—opportunity to trust, praise, obey, to possibly even turn from sin.

The question of 'Why?' can't be the only question we ask. It must always lead us to a second question. And that question is 'How?'

How can I best display Christ to the world through my circumstances?
How can I use my trials to draw closer to God?
How can God be most glorified in my difficulties?

We learn important and practical truths from the story of Job:

God's ways are not fully known to us.

God is always good.

We must trust God in good times and in difficult times.

God's strength is revealed when we are our weakest.

The Bottom Line: God is sovereign over suffering, even if we are veiled to its purposes in our lives. God is for us and not against us.

Questions:

How was God glorified through Job's unwavering commitment to Him?

Do you think you would respond to suffering as Job did?

How is God's strength shown more clearly when we are at our weakest?

PRAY

- Read *Windows On The World*, Pg. 164-165 *Tibetans*
- Use Prayer Card

SING

- Use lyric sheet and mp3 download of "Blessed Be Your Name"
- When choosing a song to accompany this week's teaching, we immediately thought about Matt Redman's song "Blessed Be Your Name."

In a 2007 *Today's Christian* article Redman said, "'Blessed Be Your Name' stems from the story of our lives. Both Beth [his wife] and I had tough upbringings—a lot of different issues to do with fathers—and over the years we've come to realize that worshipping God is a choice, and the best choice we'll ever make."

"It struck me how little a vocabulary we have in church worship music to respond appropriately in dark times of life," he continued. "We all face seasons of pain and unease. And in those times we need to find our voice before God. The church, and indeed the world, needs songs of lamentation."

And it was while on sabbatical in the United States that Matt and Beth responded out of and to that need. Together they wrote "Blessed Be Your Name" after the tragedy of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Looking at the story of Job, we realize it is about God's sovereignty over all things in our lives, including suffering. What a comfort it is to know we have a God who is present during times of joy, but He also walks us through times of trial. He is indeed good and most worthy of our trust and praise. That is why we sing.

MEMORIZE

- Job 1:21 And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These activities and questions can replace or serve as a supplement to the questions under the 'Read' section on Page 1. Remember, these suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's Word and worship Him together.

Preschool (Birth-Kindergarten)

- Show your child a box of band-aids. You may even allow them to open them and put band-aids all over his/her arms and legs.
- Discuss how sick Job was. Say, "Did God know Job was sick? Yes, God knows everything. Could anyone make Job better? No. God was the only one who could make Job better. Nothing is too hard for God. Who provides for us? God does. Does God provide everything we need? Yes. Can or does God choose to take away our suffering? Sometimes, but God is always with us even when we are sick. He never leaves us."

Children (Grades 1-5)

- What is suffering? Suffering means to have pain, discomfort or sorrow. It means to experience something unpleasant.
- Refer to something that your child(ren) learned that was difficult and may have caused pain such as learning to ride a bike without training wheels, learning to rollerblade, ride a rip stick, ice skate, etc.
- Ask your child(ren) why you allowed them to go through pain. Explain that you allowed them to go through pain because you wanted them to learn something or how to do something you knew would be good for them.
- It is because God loves us that He lets us go through hard times, have problems, and even suffer. Having problems and suffering help our faith grow strong. Going through troubles helps us learn to trust in God's promises. We should thank God for giving us problems and suffering because He is teaching us something when we deal with those problems/troubles.
- Share a time of suffering from your life with your child(ren) and what God taught you through that suffering/time of trouble.
- See if your child(ren) can list other people in the Bible who also had times of suffering (Daniel, Joseph, Paul, etc.).

Students (Grades 6-12)

- After reading Job 42:12-17 ask, "What's more important—knowing the reason for your suffering or learning how to respond to your suffering?" Discuss.
- Read aloud Job 1:20-22. How was Job able to respond to suffering in the way he did? How would an attitude like his change your life when it comes to suffering?
- When, if ever, has suffering led to something good in your life? Discuss.

Blessed Be Your Name
By Matt and Beth Redman

Verse 1:
Blessed Be Your Name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Verse 3:
Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's 'all as it should be'
Blessed be Your name

Verse 2:
Blessed Be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed Be Your name

Verse 4:
Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Pre-Chorus:
Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say

Bridge:
You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord, blessed be Your name

Chorus:
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

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Prayer

Petition

Petition is praying for your own personal needs. While this is not the sole focus of our prayer lives, it is appropriate to pray for the needs and desires of your heart. We are to pray for our needs in times of sickness, sorrow, trial and joy, so that ultimately we learn to seek God's will in our lives. Through prayers of petition, we come to a deeper understanding of God's sovereignty over all things, whether they happen the way we would like or not. It is about submitting to His will and trusting that He will guard us in Christ Jesus. If you desire to read some passages from scripture about this, some are listed below.

Biblical Basis for Petition:
Philippians 4:6; James 5:13-16; 1 John 5:13-15

Take an opportunity for those gathered with you in worship to mention specific personal prayer needs you may have. Pray for each one of these requests specifically.

Nations: Tibetans

- Translation of scripture (NT) into Tibetan
- Christians serving among Tibetans
- Chinese Christians to be able to travel freely and minister to Tibetans

Source: *Operation World* by Johnstone and Mandryk

Scripture Memory

Job 1:21 And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Due to copyright limitations, we are only allowed to print the lyrics to this song with no chords. We encourage you to download an mp3 of this song from iTunes.

