

WRECKED

Overcoming Adversity In Our Lives

Week 3 (Catastrophe)

Leader Guide

THE WIN

God is in control even in our times of catastrophe and since the fall of man, catastrophe has been a part of life. Our hope is that each group member will maintain character in the midst of catastrophe.

3-5
minutes

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Tip: Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Using discernment, allow your people to freely express their feelings and insights. Use this as a flexible guide not a rigid teaching task list.

In the message this week we learned a lesson from the book of Job and how his example teaches us:

1. God is in control (v.42:2)
2. We are limited in our understanding (v.42:3-4)
3. We should seek the face of God (v.42:5)
4. We should evaluate the need for repentance (v.42:6)

In what ways can personal suffering change our view of God?

5-10
minutes

WARM UP

1. Name some of the sources of suffering in the world today?
2. Describe a catastrophe in your life that has strengthened your faith.
3. What is the worst disaster that has affected your life personally?

25-30
minutes

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

Invite someone from the group to read: Job 42:1-6

Discuss As A Group:

Here's a summarization of the events leading up to Job chapter 42:

- Job's suffering includes loss of children, servants, property (wealth), and health
- Job was afflicted with terrible sores all over his body
- Response from Job's wife ("Why are you holding on to your integrity Job? Just curse God and die!") Job 2:9
- Response from Job's friends ("You must have done something to deserve this, Job. since good people don't suffer like this!") Job 22:5.

After all the suffering and rejection that Job had experienced, he responds to the Lord and says “I know that You can do anything and no plan of Yours can be thwarted.”

1. If you had experienced catastrophe on the scale of Job. what would have been your reply?
2. What do we learn about Job from his wife’s response? **Job 2:9**
3. Do you agree with Job’s friends’ response? **Job 22:5**
4. How do you react when you hear a preacher talking about health and wealth being a benefit of following Jesus?
5. **Read Philippians 4:12-13:** in what ways is the Apostle Paul’s response to difficulties similar to Job’s?

Read Job 30:20-23

1. Discuss as a group if you think it is acceptable for us to voice our anger to God.
2. Describe a time in your life when you blamed God for a catastrophe.

Job admits his short comings in chapter 42, verse 3, Job 42:3 when he says, “Surely I spoke about things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.”

1. What do you think happened to Job to change his perspective between Job 30:20-23 and Job 42?
2. How can experiences of catastrophe be used by God for reasons you might not be aware of?

Job 42:5 says “I had heard rumors about you, but now my eyes have seen you.” This reminds us that the most powerful aspect of Job’s encounter with God was not primarily what God said; but God’s simple, loving, powerful presence that changed Job most profoundly. Now Read James 5:11; notice how James uses the words **heard** and **seen**. *Interesting!*

1. What is the truth about the nature of God that Job and James communicate in these passages?
2. What have you learned in the story of Job that reveals our responsibility in seeking God through our catastrophes?

In Chapter 42, verse 6, , Job repents. It’s important to note that sin sometimes causes catastrophe in our lives, but not in this case. Job had done nothing to invite the crisis that came into his life; the reasons for that crisis were rooted in the contention between God and Satan, as recorded in Job 1 and 2. Yet Job needed to repent for accusing God incorrectly and for having a bitter attitude toward God.

- Take a moment of quiet time and allow the group to reflect on possible unconfessed sin in their lives.

The silence in this exercise may feel a little awkward, but that’s okay. Use discernment on how long you allow the silence.

- Ask if anyone would like to share their unconfessed sin to the group.

////////////////////// **DIGGING DEEPER** ////////////////////////

In the end, the Lord restored Job’s prosperity and doubled his previous possessions. This is awesome news; however this is not a guarantee or even a typical example of how God will reward us when we go through catastrophe.

1. What is our great hope and promise for the future as believers?

Read this:

1 Corinthians 2:9, John 14:2, 1 Corinthians 9:25, 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

2. During your study of Job 42. did you see a place where God gave Job an explanation for his suffering?

////// CLOSING THOUGHT //

“We are not all like Job, but we all have Job’s God. Though we have neither risen to Job’s wealth, nor will, probably, ever sink to Job’s poverty, yet there is the same God above us if we be high, and the same God with his everlasting arms beneath us if we be brought low; and what the Lord did for Job he will do for us, not precisely in the same form, but in the same spirit, and with like design.” (Spurgeon)