

CHOOSING TO GIVE THANKS WHEN THE BOTTOM DROPS OUT

Job 1:1-22; 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Community Group Homework

Getting Started

“When it rains, it pours.” To what time in your life does this saying apply?

Going Deeper (Read Job 1:1-22)

1. How does the opening scene describe Job’s character and life? What do the four descriptions tell you about this ancient patriarch?
2. What potential dangers lurk for the children of wealthy parents?
3. If you were very rich, how would you protect your children from the dangers?
4. Why did Job sacrifice to the Lord for his children? What concerned Job about his kids?
5. What does Job’s custom of sacrificing to God on behalf of his children tell you about Job’s faith and his love for his children?
6. What things surprise you about the scene in heaven when Satan appears before God?
7. What can you learn about God from His dialogue with Satan?
8. What can you learn about Satan from his dialogue with God?

9. What did Satan accuse Job of when he said, “strike everything he has and he will curse you to your face”?

Growing Stronger

1. Why did God refuse to give Satan unlimited permission to afflict Job?

2. What do you see in the progression of the four messengers who came to Job with tragic news?

3. Have you ever had a day when you thought nothing worse could happen and then it did?

4. How did Job respond to the tragic and sudden losses? What does this tell you about Job? What does this teach you about how you should respond to suffering?

5. Read the verses for the ten reasons to give thanks to God in times of suffering
 - 1) Suffering comes with the freedom to choose and to love - 1 Corinthians 13:13
 - 2) Pain warns us of danger - Psalms 78:32-35
 - 3) Suffering reveals what is in our hearts - Romans 5:3-5
 - 4) Suffering takes us to the edge of eternity - Romans 8:18-19
 - 5) Pain loosens our grip on this life - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
 - 6) Suffering gives opportunity to trust God - 1 Peter 4:19
 - 7) God suffers with us in our suffering - Philippians 3:10; 1 Peter 2:21
 - 8) God’s grace is greater than our suffering - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
 - 9) In times of crisis, we find one another - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
 - 10) God promised to turn suffering around for our good - Romans 8:28

Getting Together

1. Ask God to help you pass the tests He allows into your life.
2. Share your prayer concerns and pray for each other.