

Trying to Make Sense of It All

PRAYER

- Begin your group in a time of thanks and praise to God.

OPEN

- Describe a really “bad day” you’ve had recently. What made it particularly difficult?

READ Job 2:11-13; 3:1-11

Job is experiencing so much pain that he curses the day he was born in an eloquent tirade of emotions. When you hurt physically and emotionally, you are not interested in the joys of the past or even in hope for tomorrow. You are forced into the present by your pain and consumed by your passionate pleas for it to end.

Outwardly unmoved by his troubles, Job inwardly was in turmoil. As the days of agony continued, his inner doubts and fears must have been far more excruciating for Job than the physical pain. He was a man who had built his life on piety and honesty. Now the God he had served had turned against him. Certainly the timing and the method of the losses Job suffered made it clear: this was the hand of the Lord. The question that tormented Job was “**Why?**” When three friends came from their homes to comfort and console Job, they hardly recognized him. In tears they sat with him for seven days and nights, so moved by his suffering that they could not bring themselves to speak

LESSON ONE: *When you are in difficult times, those closest to you may not comfort you*

- Note how Job’s three friends provide support by simply sitting with him for seven days without saying a word! Would you be willing to remain silent and just be “present” with a hurting or grieving friend or relative?
- Why is the gift of time and presence so important to hurting people?

Some keys to comfort and support when a friend is hurting:

- Be there and be quiet*
- Sympathize with them*
- Don’t try to explain everything*
- Breath hope into their life*
- Emphasize God’s grace and love*
- Pray for them that they come to the place where... “knowing God is better than knowing why”*

LESSON TWO: *Though God is silent He is not absent*

- Have you ever felt like Job did in chapter 3:1-11?
- When was a time you felt God was absent in your life? What did you learn from this experience?
- What is the purpose of God seeming to be “hidden” or distant at times from our lives?

LESSON THREE: *When you are weary, guard yourself from anger with God*

- If you were in Job’s position, what would be the most difficult thing to deal with?
- What does Job’s story and faith teach you about your own story and faith?

CLOSE in PRAYER