



"They Why Question" Job 1:1 - 2:10

1. Towards the beginning of the sermon and in a light-hearted way, Tim mentioned some "first world problems" - "trivial problems" we may complain about in the West, but that the developing world would roll their eyes at. Do you have "first world problems" of your own that are easy to complain about? Quickly share any that come to mind. **(Read and answer this as a light-hearted question.)**
2. Discuss some of the ways it's possible for us as Americans to avoid the reality of suffering. How can this distort our view of suffering?
3. "All you have to do is live long enough, and you will suffer." React to this statement. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
4. Here's a **key point** from Job 1-2: "As you wrestle through the WHY question of suffering, remember who God is." Why is it important? If we *don't* remember who God reveals Himself to be in the Bible, how might we respond to suffering instead?
5. Read Job 1:1-2:10 and answer the following questions:
 - Look again at 1:1-5. What do we learn about Job in these verses? Summarize what you see.
 - Now list all the ways Job suffered deeply. (This is included in Job 1:13-19 and Job 2:7-10.)
 - Compare Job 1:1-5 with where Job ends up in 2:10. Imagine yourself in Job's situation. Discuss ways this dramatic "fall" from position and success into suffering would be tremendously difficult.
6. In Job 1-2, we get a "backstage pass" into the story that Job never does in his lifetime. We get insight into why Job is suffering that he doesn't, as we listen in on a "debate" between God and Satan. We learn that **Job's suffering is a test where Job shows that God's worth is in no way dependent on how good Job's life is.**
 - Read 1:6-12 again. In your own words, explain how this passage develops this reason WHY Job is suffering.
 - The question Satan asks God is a question we should all ask ourselves: "Are we following God because of what we get? Or because of who God is?" As painful as it is, how does this question provide meaning and importance to our response to suffering?
7. Job 1-2 also gives us important truth about who God is. We learn that (1) God is sovereign - even over suffering; (2) God always has a bigger picture in mind than what's immediately in front of us; and (3) God has purpose in your suffering. Choose ONE of these truths about who God is and answer the following questions.
 - How does Job 1-2 support this truth?
 - Why is this truth about God important to keep in mind in the midst of suffering?
8. Ultimately, Job doesn't just *remember* who God is. Even in his grief, Job *trusts* God. (Check it out in Job 1:20-22 and Job 2:10.) Why is trusting God in the midst of suffering so important?
9. What are some practical steps you can take NOW to grow in your understanding - *and trust* - of God? How will this prepare you to respond to suffering well?
10. **Challenge:** As a group, memorize Romans 5:3-4: "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."



This week's
readings:
(Aug 1 - 7)

Monday - Job 5-7

Tuesday - Job 8-10

Wednesday - Job 11-13

Thursday - Job 14-16

Friday - Job 17-20

Saturday - Job 21-23

Sunday - Job 24-28