

Weekly Action Plan

Pastor Tim Keller says, "There's nothing more inevitable in life than suffering, and the book of Job faces this issue in a way no other part of the Bible does, and maybe no other work of world literature does". Like it or not, Keller is correct. Suffering is inevitable, in fact that is why Dan suggested we do a series on the book of Job. The truth is there seems to be more than the usual share of pain, trials and suffering in our church family right now. As Pastors we are grateful to be able to pray and journey through all the seasons of life with you. It's our prayer that we call all learn to say as Job did, "*The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. Praise the name of Lord.*"



Overheard:

"It's a weak faith that only serves God in times of blessing. The book of Job teaches us that true faith, genuine faith, **great faith is revealed only when we serve and trust God in the hard times, the times of suffering, loss, and opposition.** That's the kind of faith that makes the world sit up and take notice.

-Ray Stedman "Let God Be God: Life-Changing Truths from the Book of Job"

Here are 5 reminders and opportunities for reflection from the last 5 weeks of 'Weekly Action Plans'.

1. From Dan's outstanding first message, he pointed out that, "**Trusting God alone doesn't mean we don't grieve. There wasn't some stoic resignation. Job was hurt deeply by his loss and it showed.**" At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Job1:20

2. In week 2 we discovered that Job's friends weren't particularly helpful as comforters. Our friends may not always prove to be helpful in our own seasons of suffering but don't write them off! Why? Because Patience is an essential component to real friendship. Remember, **God is patient with you and I.** Even in our our trials we should extant that patience to others.

3. Dan reminded us that what we really need in times of suffering is the knowledge that God is WITH US! Reflecting on what Job says in 13:20-24, Dan wrote "**I**

don't really need all of the answers *if* I know you're with me in it and walking with me through it."

4. One of the things John wrote in this Weekly Action Plan was, "**Resist succumbing to the temptation to believe that you could run this world better than God does.**"

Although I don't say these words out loud, I do in essence *believe* that I could do a better job if I were in charge when I silently complain about life's difficulties that are beyond my control.

5. This week I closed my message with quote and question about loving and trusting God. **It will always be difficult to trust God if your not not absolutely sure that God loves you!** You won't trust someone if your not sure that they really love you. The sure demonstration that we have (that Job didn't have) that God loves us, is that while we were still sinners, Jesus died for us (Romans 5:8)!

Talk it out: Make some time to sit down at a kitchen table, at a coffee shop, or at the beach and explore with someone some of these questions:

-What is the most important lesson God has taught me over the last few weeks from studying Job?

-Are you disappointed that God never answers Job central question of 'Why'? Why does it trouble you?

-Up to this point in life, what has been your most difficult season of suffering?

-Who can you pray for that is going through a season of suffering right now? Take a minute and pray for them!

-God uses a heavy dose of sarcasm in Chapters 38-41, can you think of other examples of where God uses sarcasm or humor in the Bible?

Pray it in: Make some time this week to pray. **Thank God for His very real presence in you life, especially that HE IS WITH YOU** as you go through all challenging seasons of life (John 16:7)! Ask God to give you the COURAGE to say in all the trials of life what Job did, "you give and take away, Blessed by your name God" (Job 1:21)

Store it up: Committing verses to memory is a key way to hold on to the truths of God that we need to be regularly reminded of. Here is a great one for this week: "**The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. Praise the name of Lord.**" -Job 1:21

I'm always grateful for the privilege of praying and working with all of you! - Noah