



Suffering Well: Lessons from the book of Job

Bible study and discussion

Please read these two blog posts beforehand:

<http://www.christcitychurch.ie/suffering-well-lessons-from-the-book-of-job/>

<http://www.christcitychurch.ie/suffering-well-7-lessons-from-tim-keller/>

Introduction

1. Why does suffering cause a challenge to both the believer and the non-believer? How is the challenge different?
2. Discuss a time when you suffered and what that meant to you.

General Questions

3. What have you learned most from the series?
4. Why and how will suffering change us? What are the options?
5. Has it been helpful to learn that God wants us to be honest (even angry!) with him and we don't need to fear saying the wrong thing or offending him (ie. it's better to talk to him than give him the silent treatment)?
6. Why do you think the Bible places such an emphasis on the good that comes from suffering (look up 1 Peter 1:3-9, James 1:1-5, Romans 5:3-5, Hebrews 12:4-12)?
7. The book of Job is premised by the question in 1:9 from the devil to God "Does Job fear God for nothing?" (ie. the only reason he worships you is because life is going well). How does suffering reveal our heart and our faith?
8. What is the one thing you are most fearful of God taking away from you? Why?
9. Simone Weil talks about five pitfalls to avoid in suffering. Which is the one you need to be more careful to avoid?
 - a. Isolation
 - b. Self-absorption
 - c. Shame and condemnation
 - d. Anger
 - e. Complicity with affliction
10. What truth do you most need to hold on to when you suffer (eg. God is personal, God is sovereign, God suffered, God loves me, God will fix all this one day)?
11. How did Christian Hacking's testimony help/challenge you?
12. What unanswered questions do you have?

Application Questions

13. How has the series helped prepare you to suffer well?
14. How can we help others in suffering (what should we do, what shouldn't we do)?
15. What would you like prayer for?