

Unexpected (3 of 4) Small Group Discussion Questions

SUNDAY WORSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The global pandemic COVID-19 has forced us to adjust and adapt how we do church and stay connected to one another as a congregation. We're not closed as a church, we're just doing church differently! So, please stay connected to the body at Grantham Church. Join our congregation for worship online at 10:30 am each Sunday morning. Follow the worship liturgy and watch our [Vimeo](#) videos at granthamchurch.org/liturgy.

As usual, the sermons will be posted to the [recent sermons page](#) on our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for engaging with us online!

Sunday, December 13th 2020



Sermon Title: Trusting God When We Don't Know Why

Scripture Reading: Job 1:6-12, 20-22; 9:17, 22-24; 38:1-2; 42:3-6, 10-17; Rom 8:18-30

Sermon Focus: Job was a good guy. He had lots of friends, a great family, and money in the bank. Until one day he lost everything. His loss was so great that it would be hard for anyone not to see it as divine punishment. But little did Job know, there was more going on than meets the eye. In *Trusting God When We Don't Know Why* (3 of 4), Pastor David shares about the epic story of Job and what this book of wisdom has to say about God and our faith when we are hit by unexpected tragedies.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call! Use the following questions to guide your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David began his message by showing a video from [The Bible Project](#) summarizing the story of Job. Did you find the presentation of Job and how his story fits within the wisdom literature of the OT (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job) helpful? Share with the group what you learned or new thoughts you have.
2. Over the years, many people have derived lessons from Job and misused his story in an effort to make sense of our suffering. Pastor David highlighted three of the most common mistakes. Discuss each of these with your group and why they're not representative of a holistic, biblical, Christ-centered understanding:
 - Everything bad that happens is because God wanted/allowed it.
 - God is the one who "takes" people away from us, i.e. causes their deaths.
 - Bad things happen because of something we've done or to teach us a lesson (e.g., death, divorce, pain hurricanes, pandemics, etc.)
3. In what ways have you related to Job's story in your own life? When you experienced a tragedy or great pain in your life, did you feel unsupported and alone as Job did (e.g., his friends and his wife)? How have you wrestled with God's sovereignty and justice? What have you learned about God and your faith through human suffering? How have you overcome your doubts to trust in God?
4. Pastor David said, "It wasn't until Job started to lament and complain to God that he truly began to live. It was then that God looked down and said, "Yes, that's it. Now you're being true to yourself. Now you're letting what's in you come out of you—that groaning for what is right, just, and fair—the recognition that something isn't right. I honor that, Job. That's what real faith is made of, and it's ultimately what leads to justice. Now you know how I feel."" Share your thoughts about this way of understanding Job and God's own feelings. Why is it so important to be honest with God in our lament and righteous complaints?
5. In what ways and for what specific things do you need to lament? What does this look like for you? How can you lament with a purpose and an end in mind?
6. How do you feel about this quote from Greg Boyd: "We must with confidence anchor ourselves in what we can know—that God looks like Jesus—and simply confess ignorance about everything else" (Greg Boyd, *Is God to Blame? Beyond Pat Answers to the Problem of Suffering*, pg. 105).