

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Job Series

These questions are for the **February 17, 2019** sermon, "When Friends Disappoint." Please read the sermon passage (Job 6:1-30) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

IN TIMES OF GREAT HARDSHIP, KINDNESS NEEDS TO BE PROVIDED . . .

1. Even when friends spend time lamenting their circumstances (1-7)
 - a. Job is "vexed," which means he has had a weight placed upon him.
 - i. Note that every hardship is weight, and also . . .
 - ii. Note that every person has a different lift capacity.
 - b. Christian friends should lighten the load of our friends, not add to it with accusations.
2. Even when friends spend time questioning their resources (8-13)
 - a. Our friends do not need to understand our problems in order to lighten our loads.
 - b. "Hope is never ill where faith is well." -John Bunyan
 - c. When resources are depleted, friends can bring strength (13)
3. Even when friends spend time critiquing their relationships (14-23)
 - a. In the midst of the adventures of life, friends may hurt you. Resist the urge to isolate!
 - b. Instead, the wise believer learns to insulate herself for further adventures with friends.
4. Even when friends spend time challenging their comforters (24-27)
 - a. Even if there are corrections to be made, the wise counselor may remain silent.
 - b. What is needed is not "one size fits all" counsel, but customized encouragement!

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: All of us have different "lift capacities." One of the keys to Christian communities is to resist the urge to think that everyone should be able to endure as much hardship as you have endured. Who has God placed in your life that is becoming "vexed" with life? How can you stop judging their lift capacity and start lightening their load today?
2. Based on #2, above: Job needs hope, which is the conviction that God will work in the future for the good of those who love him, according to his Word. But he is broken. How can friends actually help "broken" friends have hope? Describe a situation when a friend helped you hope.
3. Based on #3, above: When we are hurt by people, our natural response is to withdraw from those people. But the wise believer learns to insulate themselves, and continue with adventures. How do you tend to ISOLATE? How does it impact the body of Christ when your perspectives, and your insights are withheld from people? How might you begin to INSULATE and re-engage today? What is the next adventure God may be preparing you for?
4. Based on #4, above: How do you feel when someone in your life always points out your shortcomings, and criticizes you? This is the now the second time that we have learned that wise counselors must learn to withhold their advice and limit their words. What is needed is not more advice, but strategic encouragement. What work might the Spirit of God be doing in your life to help you stop criticizing, stop lecturing, stop nagging, and start encouraging?