

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Job Series

These questions are for the **March 24, 2019** sermon, "The Ways of Wisdom." Please read the sermon passage (Job 12:1-25) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

WHEN WE NEED WISDOM IN THE MIDST OF PERSONAL TRIALS, LET'S EQUIP OURSELVES TO . . .

1. Evaluate the wisdom claimed by others (1-6)
 - a. Don't be surprised when hurting people use sarcasm to communicate.
 - b. All suffering is not based upon sin.
 - i. Don't ask, "Why do bad things happen to good people?"
 - ii. Ask instead, "Why do good things ever happen to bad people?"
 - c. When Job is confused and troubled, he reminds himself of answered prayer.
 - d. Do not accept all religiously-oriented advice as biblical.
2. Apply the wisdom revealed through nature (7-12)
 - a. The beasts themselves are wiser than counsel which does not honor God.
 - b. When we examine the world and cosmos in the fear of the Lord, we get wisdom.
 - c. Here, Job reintroduces his counselors to "the LORD," the personal covenant-keeper.
3. Trust the wisdom inherent in God (13-25)
 - a. Job lists 11 different types of leaders, and shows how God's wisdom exceeds them all.
 - b. In his time, and for his purposes, God makes nations great and tears them down.
 - c. When Job's counselors did not possess the necessary wisdom, God did.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Wisdom is "skillful living," or the ability to apply God's Word to everyday living. Who do you know that seems to have a lot of wisdom? How do you see their wisdom? What are some shortcomings in your own life in terms of putting God's Word into action?
2. Based on #1, above: When job is troubled and confused, he reviews some of the ways that God had answered prayer in his life (12:4). How has God answered prayers in your life? How often to review his answers to prayer? Who have you told about his specific answers to prayer?
3. Based on #2, above: While his counselors continue to speak about an "all powerful God" and a general "God," Job re-introduces the term, "Yahweh," which reminds the counselors that God is personal and loving and "covenant-keeping." How do your friends grow when they hear you talk about the personal and loving nature of God from your "dark pit"?
4. Based on #3, above: The wisest of counselors is undone in the presence of the Lord. From kings, to "chiefs of people," God is wiser than all. Are you growing in your reliance on the wisdom of God? What method are you developing to sift the scriptures for treasure? How do you check yourself to make certain that you are applying the Bible to your life? What is an area of strength? What is an area for improvement?