

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Title: Journey
Speaker: Michael Dick
Date: February 20, 2022



WARM-UP

The story of Job has often been seen as an attempt to answer the problem of pain. On a careful reading the question of Job's suffering is never answered. His friend's attempts at answers are dismissed by God as an inaccurate reflection of God's ways. Job is viewed as a man of integrity and righteousness throughout from God's perspective. In his pain and confusion Job puts God on trial but it is really Job himself on trial. Will he maintain faith and trust in God despite the horrendous suffering he endures? Amazingly he does, and in the process, deepens his understanding of God and the story ends with a double portion of God's blessing on his life. We learn that God is faithful through suffering working out his purposes which are beyond understanding and the blessings enjoyed are sheer gift.

Have group members share a modern-day Job story and the lessons learned – either a personal story or a story of a family member or acquaintance.

Or read Job 1, 2 and 42.

DISCUSSION

- Job and his friends are not aware of the discussion in the heavenly court. What strikes you about the discussion between God and Satan? What do we learn about Satan? About God?
- Read James 1:2 – 4. What is the purpose of our trials – in whatever form they come? How do the court room scenes of Job 1 & 2 influence how you deal with your own trials? Why does our response to testing/suffering/trials matter?
- Share some examples of where a difficult situation, or a forced transition has resulted in a positive outcome.
- What can we learn from the friends sitting with Job in silence at the end of chapter 2? Why is silence from friends sometimes better than words?
- Share some examples of how friends have blessed you when you have been in difficult circumstances.
- Job encounters God in a new and profound way at the conclusion of the book. He is also doubly blessed. What is the significance of the story ending with a communal meal? (Job 42:11) (A communal meal is a sign of hope and unity.)
- What lessons does Job teach us about our relationship with God? About God's character?