

## 2026-01-28 Small Group Guide

### Small Group Guide: Seeking God in All Circumstances

Based on Job 21-23

#### Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to hear what He wants to speak to your group tonight. Pray for honesty in sharing and grace in listening.

#### Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Question: Share about a time when life didn't go as you expected. How did you respond? Looking back, can you see God's presence in that situation?

#### Key Takeaways from the Sermon

The Danger of Comparison - Job struggled by comparing his suffering to the prosperity of the wicked

Seeking God vs. Seeking Blessings - There's a difference between knowing about God and truly knowing Him

Preparing for Devastation - We must seek God in prosperity so we're prepared to trust Him in difficulty

The Power of Praise - Praising God in all circumstances causes the enemy to flee

Ask, Seek, Knock - Continually pursue knowing God's heart, not just His blessings

#### Discussion Questions

#### Understanding Job's Struggle (15 minutes)

Job's Complaint (Job 21:7-16): Job questioned why the wicked prosper while he suffered. Have you ever felt this way? What does this reveal about our expectations of God?

The Comparison Trap: How does comparing our circumstances to others

affect our relationship with God? Why is this so dangerous to our faith?

Job's Limited Perspective: Job didn't have the full picture that we see in chapters 1-2. How does this remind us to be humble about what we think we understand about our own circumstances?

Examining Our Own Hearts (20 minutes)

Seeking God or Seeking Blessings? The pastor asked: "Do we seek God when we think we're doing okay, or only when we know we need Him?" How would you honestly answer this for yourself?

The Adoration Question: What does it mean to "adore" God rather than just obey Him out of fear of consequences? How can we cultivate adoration in our daily lives?

Personal Inventory: The sermon challenged us to ask God: "If you could change anything in my life, what would be the first thing?" Are you willing to pray this prayer? What holds us back from asking God such questions?

Practical Application (20 minutes)

Prepared for Devastation: The pastor said, "I don't think we seek to know Him in devastation and disappointment." How can we prepare spiritually for difficult times before they come?

The American Church: The sermon suggested that the American church may be weak because we've only known God in prosperity. Do you agree? What would spiritual strength look like in our context?

Ask, Seek, Knock (Continually): Jesus said to keep on asking, seeking, and knocking. What's the difference between:

Asking for things vs. asking about God's perspective?

Seeking blessings vs. seeking to know God?

Knocking for our needs vs. knocking for doors to serve others?

The Altitude of Praise: The sermon used the illustration of the pilot flying higher to escape the rat, and the eagle ascending above its attacker. How does praise lift us above the enemy's attacks? Share a time when praise changed your perspective in difficulty.

### Reflection Exercise (10 minutes)

Individual Reflection (5 minutes): Take a few moments of silence to consider these questions:

On a scale of 1-10, how well do I really know God (not just know about Him)?

Do I seek God more in prosperity or in problems?

What would change in my life if I truly believed "heaven and earth will disappear" but God's Word lasts forever?

Pair and Share (5 minutes): Share one insight from your reflection with a partner.

### Action Steps for This Week

Choose at least one of these to practice this week:

Daily Seeking: Set aside 10 minutes each day to simply seek God's presence without asking for anything. Just be with Him.

Perspective Prayer: Each morning, ask God: "What are You thinking about today? What do You see when You look at me?"

Praise Practice: When you face a difficulty this week (big or small), immediately begin praising God before you do anything else. Notice what happens.

Scripture Meditation: Read Job 23:10 - "But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold." Journal about what this

means for your current circumstances.

Gratitude in All Things: Practice 1 Thessalonians 5:18 by giving thanks in every circumstance this week, even the frustrating ones.

Prayer Partners (10 minutes)

Break into groups of 2-3 and pray for each other, specifically:

That we would seek to know God, not just know about Him

For strength to praise God in all circumstances

That we would be prepared spiritually for whatever comes

For our church to be a bride worthy of Christ's return

Closing Challenge

The pastor said: "When we begin to praise God, not because everything's going my way, but because nothing seems to be working out well, but I still trust in you, the devil can't stand."

This week's challenge: When you feel overwhelmed, instead of complaining or problem-solving first, spend 5 minutes praising God for who He is. Then see how your perspective changes.

Memory Verse

Job 23:10 - "But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold."

Next Week's Preparation

Read Job 24-28 and consider: How do we maintain faith when God seems silent?