

2026-02-11 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide: Worship in the Storm

Based on the sermon from Job 27-29

Opening Prayer

Begin by asking God to speak to your group, to help you see where you need teaching, correction, rebuke, or training in righteousness as you discuss this study together.

Ice Breaker

Share a time when you felt like everything was going wrong. How did you respond? Looking back, can you see God's presence in that situation?

Sermon Summary

This week we continued studying Job's response to suffering. While Job experienced tremendous loss and pain, we see him beginning to focus more on his problems than on God. The sermon contrasted Job's response with both Asaph (Psalm 77) and the Apostle Paul—showing us how to keep our eyes on God even when life falls apart. The key question: What do we worship—our pain or our God?

Key Takeaways

What we focus on becomes bigger in our lives - When we worship our problems by constantly thinking and talking about them, they grow larger. When we worship God, He becomes bigger than our circumstances.

Worship is what you think about most and talk about most - Our attention reveals what we're truly worshiping.

The fear of the Lord is wisdom; shunning evil is understanding (Job 28:28) - True wisdom comes from God, not from our circumstances or experiences.

We must prepare for suffering before it comes - Like having a first aid kit, we need spiritual preparation for trials before they arrive.

Humility is the pathway to God's grace - "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6)

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

Read Job 28:12-28. In the middle of his complaints, Job asks, "Where can wisdom be found?" What is his answer? How does this apply to our lives when we're suffering?

Read Psalm 77:1-20. Compare Asaph's journey in this psalm to Job's journey in chapters 27-29. What's the key difference in how they handle their distress?

In Job 29, Job begins listing all his past accomplishments and righteousness. Why is this dangerous? What's the difference between remembering God's faithfulness and dwelling on our own "glory days"?

Personal Reflection

The sermon asked: "What do you think about most and talk about most?" Be honest—what has been occupying most of your mental and emotional energy lately? Is it a problem, a person, or God?

The pastor shared his experience of hitting a deer and God telling him to "thank me." Have you ever had a moment where God asked you to be thankful in a difficult situation? How did you respond?

Read Matthew 18:1-4. Jesus says we must "change and become like little children" to enter the kingdom of heaven. What does childlike faith look like when you're going through hardship?

Application

The sermon mentioned that when we worship God (give Him our attention and praise), He gets bigger and overwhelms our problems. What are some practical ways you can shift your focus from your problems to God this week?

How can you prepare spiritually for suffering before it comes? What "emergency kit" of scriptures, prayers, or spiritual disciplines could you develop now?

Job began to exalt himself (Job 29) rather than humble himself before God. Where in your life might pride be creeping in? How can you practice humility this week?

Read 1 Peter 4:12-19. Peter tells us to "commit ourselves to our faithful Creator and continue to do good" when suffering. What does this look like practically in your current circumstances?

Practical Applications

Choose one or two of these to practice this week:

Individual Practices

Create a "Worship Shift" Plan: Write down 3-5 attributes of God or Bible verses about His character. When you catch yourself dwelling on problems, intentionally read these and thank God for who He is.

Start a Gratitude Journal: Each day, write down 3 things you're thankful for—especially things related to current difficulties (like the pastor thanking God after hitting the deer).

Memorize Job 28:28: "The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding."

Group Challenge

Accountability Partners: Pair up with someone in the group. Check in with each other during the week when you're struggling. Ask: "Are you worshiping the problem or worshiping God right now?"

Family Application

Teach Your Children: Share with your kids (age-appropriately) about a current difficulty you're facing and how you're choosing to trust God through it. Model what it looks like to keep your eyes on Jesus.

Closing Reflection

Read Hebrews 12:1-3:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

Reflection Questions:

What needs to be "thrown off" in your life so you can run better?
How does Jesus' example of enduring the cross for "the joy set before him" speak to your current situation?

Prayer Prompts

Take time to pray together:

Confession: Confess areas where you've been worshiping your problems instead of God

Petition: Ask God for wisdom to handle suffering well

Thanksgiving: Thank God for His faithfulness, even in hard times

Intercession: Pray for group members who are currently suffering (John, Tim, and Nora were mentioned in the sermon)

Looking Ahead

The pastor mentioned that "it's about to get good" in the book of Job with a major shift coming. Before next week:

Read Job 30-31 (Job's final defense)

Don't skip ahead! Let the suspense build

Come prepared to discuss how Job's story is reaching a turning point

Final Thought

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." - 1 Peter 5:5-6

The question isn't IF suffering will come, but HOW we'll respond when it does. Will we keep our eyes on God or on our problems?

For group leaders: Feel free to adapt this guide to your group's needs. Not all questions need to be answered. Follow the Spirit's leading in your discussion.