

Reflection Questions: Job 1-3

For the message, “Life in Our Real World of Pain & Suffering” given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on August 30, 2020

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Read Job 1:1-3, 2:7-13; and all of chapter 3

Let's get started...

- When you think of suffering, what are the toughest questions that come to your mind?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- In the text from the book of Job, his suffering was a complete mystery to him. We are told that he is righteous, and that his suffering was not a result of any sin in his life. How does this challenge the way the people normally think about suffering? How does it challenge the way that Christians sometimes think about suffering?
- How should the fact that Jesus was “a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief,” the one who “has born our griefs and carried our griefs” (Isaiah 53:3-4) give you a clue about how far God was willing to go to identify with us? How does it help you in the face of some of your deepest questions about suffering?
- In our study of this passage, the pastor quoted Philip Yancey & his world, *Where is God When It Hurts?* The quote is, “Any discussion of how pain and suffering fit into God's scheme ultimately leads back to the cross.” How does this quote help us think through the issue of God and our real world of pain and suffering?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- What comes to your mind when you think of a community of faith that both acknowledges the deep sorrow of suffering as well as the bright hope of the redemption and restoration of the world (what Jesus called “the renewal of all things” - Matthew 19:28 NIV)?
- How can we encourage one another to hope deeply in the coming restoration without glibly dismissing the real suffering that we experience in our life? Have you ever had someone sit with you in your ashes?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does the fact that “Suffering is actually at the heart of the Christian story” (Tim Keller) both challenge our culture’s view of life as well as offer deep hope?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

- _____
- _____
- _____