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God Cares for Our Suffering

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

⇒ How do you handle suffering?

SUMMARY

In this session, we will explore one biblical figure's experience of suffering. Through his situation, we will consider what the Bible has to say about suffering generally, and about our suffering in particular. We will also look at Christ's suffering on our behalf.

LISTEN

“The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away.” - Job 1:21b

- God delivers His people from bondage, through the wilderness, and into a state of rest in both Old and New Testaments.
- Faithful obedience, good works, and love mark this wilderness period.
- The only suffering that we experience is that which God permits.
- The bad things that happen to us are not necessarily connected to our sins.
- A proper response to suffering is worship.
- It is appropriate to express pain, and to confess our struggle to hold on to hope.
- God is wiser than us, and His ways are higher than our ways.

Notes

DISCUSS

- God calls His creation “very good” in Genesis 1:31. Read Romans 8:22-23. Why does Creation now *groan*?
- What does the Gospel of Jesus Christ say about suffering?
- Why is there still a degree of mystery behind our suffering?
- Based upon Job’s experience, what do we know about *Satan’s* agenda in our sufferings? What is *God* doing in our difficulties?
- How does Romans 8:28 relate to suffering?
- What are some bad responses to suffering? What are some good responses to suffering?
- What does it mean to be in a “wilderness period” as Christians? How does Christ’s promised return give us hope?

FOLLOW UP

Key Readings

- ◆ Job 1
- ◆ Romans 11:33-36
- ◆ Job 13:15, 19:25
- ◆ Romans 8:18-28
- ◆ Hebrews 3:7-11 (Psalm 95)
- ◆ 1 Peter 2:21-25

How do each of these passages shed light on the cause(s) and purpose(s) of our suffering? Where is hope found in these passages?

What questions come to mind as you consider these passages?