

## Home Group Questions on Job 1-2

*Feel free to pick the four (or more!) questions that will best help your group, as time allows.*

Opening question: when do you find it hardest to love God?

*Recap on the sermon:*

The underlying question of the book of Job is this: is God worthy of our love and worship for *his own sake*, regardless of what gifts he gives and takes away?

- 1) For what reason does Satan think that Job fears God?
- 2) What evidence is there in chapters 1-2 that Job loves and fears God for God's own sake and not just the gifts he gives?
- 3) Why does it matter whether God's loveliness is clearly, publicly vindicated, even at such cost to Job?

In Genesis 3:15, God promised that an offspring of Eve would one day crush Satan's head. Job gets the painful privilege of partly fulfilling this promise; he silences Satan's accusations by his refusal to curse God. But Ezekiel 14:14 and 14:20 tell us that Job's righteousness would not be enough to save anyone but himself from God's wrath at sin. This is because Job was righteous by faith, but not sinless (see Job 13:26, 14:16); Job needed atonement for his own sin, so he could not bear other peoples' sin. Therefore, Job's sufferings reveal the need for something and someone greater: Jesus.

- 4) How does Jesus's suffering vindicate the loveliness of God and silence Satan once and for all?
- 5) How does Jesus's suffering teach us to trust God with pain we don't understand?

*Application:*

- 6) Does Job see his possessions, family and health as a right or a gift?
- 7) When God withholds or takes away gifts, we sometimes struggle with resentment or anger, because we feel a sense of entitlement to his gifts. How does Job's response in 1:20-21 and 2:10 challenge us?
- 8) How could you learn to pray about God's gifts with greater humility?
- 9) At times we all find it easy to love God for the gifts he gives. How can we encourage each other to keep looking beyond the gifts, to the character of the giver?