

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 12, 2011

Passage: Job 40:6-42:6

Memory Passage: Psalm 9:1-2

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 40:10-14.** What is Yahweh's ultimate challenge to Job in v. 10? Can Job meet this challenge? Why/why not?
- (b) Summarize what Yahweh is commanding Job to do in vs. 11-13. Why does He ask Job to do this (think about Job's challenges to God throughout his speeches)?
- (c) If Job can accomplish these things what will "then" (v. 14) happen? What is the implication for Job if he cannot accomplish these things?
- (d) What implications do these verses have for you when you begin to question God's just administration of your life? And before you say "I don't question God's just administration of my life!" take a moment to remember the last time you said things like, "Why is this happening?" or "This is not fair!" or "I don't deserve this!" or became angry about your personal situation. All of these thoughts/responses to the circumstances of your life reveal that you disagree with God's just administration of your life. So be specific with how you can apply these verses to your life when (not if) you struggle.
- (e) *Family:* As you **Read Job 40:10**, have you family draw pictures (provide crayons/markers & paper) of what Job would look like if he could actually "adorn" and "clothe" himself in these characteristics. Explain that "adorn" & "clothe" are metaphors used to describe God's character, and that, since Job has accused God of not running His universe justly, God is asking Job to show himself to have God's character to prove that he could run the universe in a better way than God. As your family continues to draw, **Read Psalm 93:1 & 104:1-4** and explain that these are characteristics that speak only of God, not of men like Job, so the task for Job is impossible to fulfill.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 40:15-24.** "Behemoth" is a transliteration of a Hebrew word translated most often "beast" (Joel 1:20; 2:22; Ps. 8:7; 49:12; 73:22). What animal do you think Yahweh is describing in these verses?
- (b) What do you think this animal's most important characteristic is? Why?
- (c) Yahweh only asks one question in this passage. What is the question and what is its significance (i.e. How does Yahweh continue to develop His case against Job with the animal described and this final question)?
- (d) *Family:* **Read Job 41:15-24** and have your family guess what kind of animal is being described. Tell them that many people believe this passage describes a hippopotamus, and show them a video of hippopotami. You can find several here: <http://www.arkive.org/hippopotamus/hippopotamus-amphibius/video-00.html> There are 13 videos and 60 pictures here, so choose one that your family will appreciate. Many videos available have fighting scenes that really show the strength and ferocity of this animal, but might scare younger children. The video linked here is a general overview of hippopotami, and video #6 shows hippopotami running on a beach. After viewing a video or two, explain that Yahweh is asking Job if he could ever capture one of these animals (and the answer is a resounding "no!"), and that God not only created them in their strength but also controls them. This is one more step in God proving to Job that He is indeed a just ruler of His creation.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 41:12-34.** As you read, write down each new characteristic you learn about this animal. If you are a visual person, draw a picture as you read. What animal do you think Yahweh is describing?
- (b) What is Yahweh saying about this animal in v. 24? What are verses 31-32 describing?
- (c) What emotions does the description of this animal inspire you to feel? Would this be an animal you would desire to "tangle" with? Why or why not? What response does this description cause you to have towards God, and why (e.g. worship, "why did you create *that* thing?" reverence, confusion, etc.)?
- (d) *Family:* **Read Job 41:12-34.** After you have read, ask your family what animal they think God is describing. If you desire, you can have them draw pictures as you read this description a second time. Then go to this website and show them a video of the crocodile and ask them to look for the characteristics described in the text: <http://www.arkive.org/nile-crocodile/crocodylus-niloticus/video-00.html> This video is a general overview of the Nile Crocodile. Your kids might be concerned that the mother is eating the babies, but she is not, so watch the video to the end!

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Job 41:1-11.** What point is Yahweh making about Job in comparison to Himself with regard to Leviathan in vs. 1-2? 3-4? 5-7? 8-9?
- (b) According to vs. 10-11, what is Yahweh proving to Job by using Leviathan as an illustration? What has Job said/claimed to bring on this challenge from Yahweh? How has Yahweh furthered His challenge against Job in chapter 41?
- (c) Summarize, in one paragraph, Yahweh’s two speeches. Now boil down to one sentence Yahweh’s main challenge to Job.
- (d) *Family: Read Job 41:1-11.* As you read these verses, lead your family in a discussion of what God is asking Job in each section and have someone record on your white board what you decide (e.g. vs. 1-2—“Can you catch Leviathan?” “Will he softly plead for mercy or ask to become your servant if you catch him?” “If you catch him will he submit to your authority so much that you could play with him like a pet on a leash and give him to your children?” etc.). After you discuss these questions and answer them, you might want to show your family the video again (or another video) to remind them of how silly these questions seem! God is using humor here with Job because the answer is obviously “no!” to every question!

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Job 42:1-6.** What did Job “utter” that he did not understand (v. 3b)? Why were they “too wonderful” for him?
- (b) What differences do you see between Job’s first response (40:1-5) and this second response? Why do you think these differences exist?
- (c) What does Job do as a result of Yahweh’s speeches (v. 6)? How is this action different from what he has desired & asked for throughout his speeches? How does it compare to what his 3 friends & Elihu told him to do throughout their speeches? Were Job’s friends correct after all? Why/why not? What about Elihu?
- (d) The title of our sermon series is, “Learning to Trust in Our Sovereign God.” What does v. 5 tell us about Job’s knowledge of God and how has this helped him to better “learn to trust in His sovereign God”? Have you learned to better trust in God throughout our study of Job? Write down some specific ways in which you have grown in this area.
- (e) *Family: Read Job: 42:1-6.* Explain these verses to your family, tying their explanation to Job’s constant challenge to God’s justice, the 3 friends’ constant call to repent of former sin, and Elihu’s call to repent of sinning while suffering. Explain that even though the 3 friends called for repentance of the supposed sin that caused his trouble to begin with, Job repents of speaking wrongly about the way in which God exercises justice as He rules every aspect of His creation. This further vindicates Elihu’s challenge to Job to repent of the sin he committed while suffering.

DATE: June 12, 2011***God: So You Want to Rule the World?*****PASSAGE: Job 40:6-42:6**