

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement from us?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?
[Dialogue]
2. Let's read our primary text. What has just transpired in the life of Job as you look back over chapter 1?
Job, a man of tremendous wealth and resource, lost all his livestock, servants, and his children in a matter of moments. Every possession he had was lost.
3. Job's losses are typically a focal point of discussion, but what kind of man was Job? What was his character like?
He was a man that loved and respected God. He was a man that loved His children much, so much so that he offered burnt offerings for them daily for transgression that may have been committed.
4. Job was capable of an absolutely tremendous response. Why do you think this was so?
It seems that Job is a man that walked with God, in step with the Holy Spirit, committed to daily communion with God. A response like this, in light of devastation all around him, could only be birthed by the Holy Spirit.
5. We often thank God and give credit to God in seasons of blessing, but if God works "all things together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose," should we not thank him for our trials also? Why does God allow trials in our lives?
In short, he uses trials to restore God's image in us. Trials aid in sanctification (James chapter 1 underscores this well).
6. What other blessings often come from trials/suffering?
Author Brian Hedges says it well, "God uses suffering to...
 - Teach us His word
 - Wean us from idols
 - Discipline us
 - Test and purify our faith
 - Increase our usefulness
 - Prepare us for future glory"

7. Did God excuse Himself from suffering?

No. He willingly stepped into this fallen world and suffered terribly to rescue and redeems us, therefore he is a high priest that is able to sympathize with us. (Hebrews 1:10 - For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.)

8. How do you typically respond to trial and hardship in your life? Could Job's response and Jesus's willingness to suffer on your behalf cause you to consider a new perspective?

[Dialogue]

9. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?

[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is it apparent to others that Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity? Would anyone like to share the gospel with the group?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives.

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- Hedges, Brian. Christ Formed in You, pgs 211-234.