



Group Leader Guide

Series: The Heart - Week 1

Scripture: Job 1-3 & Proverbs 4:23

**Leader Notes:**

This week we start a new series that is massively important for modern people. In the modern western world, one mantra seems to reign above all others.

“Follow Your Heart!”

It doesn't matter whether it's extremely serious or exceptionally trivial, a new job opportunity, trying to figure out our next move in our faltering marriage, or figuring out our plans for the weekend, culture's compass is the heart. The heart serves as our GPS telling us where to go and what to do.

However, this is a recipe for disaster. The Bible has a different prescription, instead of following the heart, we are to guard the heart. We are to guard our heart and keep it focused on God and his ways.

The tricky part is that we are to do this no matter what season of life we find ourselves in. Whether life is good or bad, fast or slow, high or low, we are to keep our heart.

This week we are going to look at how to keep the heart when life is falling apart. Where better to look than Job? This man lost everything, but kept his heart focused on God. Let's take notes!

**Bottom Line:**

Adversity and tough times helps us learn to keep our heart close to God, the one who is our only hope!

**Introduction:**

Job was a righteous man, yet, he finds himself in GREAT trial and tribulation. However, his response shows a heart that is staying close to God despite horrible circumstances. Job knows that his circumstances do not mean that God has forsaken him. So he guards his heart and leans into God saying, “The Lord gives and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

Do we guard our hearts like Job? Do we guard our hearts and lean into God even in the worst of circumstances?

**BELONG – Begin by allowing the group a time to connect and care for one another! Take prayer requests and start the group in prayer.**

Ice Breaker Questions:

- Why is it important to remember that God is in control when we experience suffering?

**BELIEVE – Take time to study the Bible together.**

**READ JOB 1-2**

**Teaching Points:**

- No matter what suffering we experience God is in control!
- No matter what Satan throws our way, he is a lion on a leash!
- We guard our heart in suffering by leaning into God, not running away from him.

**Questions For Discussion**

1. Read Job 1:1-5. The first verse describes Job’s character and righteousness. Read Psalm 37:18, 97:11, and Proverbs 11:3. What does it look like to live a righteous and blameless life for the Lord? What do you need to adjust in your life?

2. Read Job 1:6-12. Satan comes, uninvited, into the presence of God. His main goal is to destroy Job's commitment to the Lord (see John 10:10). Can you think of a time that it felt like the enemy was trying to destroy all the good in your life?
3. God is: Omnipresent. Meaning that God can be in all places at all times. God is also Omniscient. Meaning that God knows all things. How does knowing that Satan is neither of these change the way you think about the devil?
4. Read Job 1:20-22. After losing everything, Job's first response was worship. Read Psalm 95:6, John 4:20-24, and Romans 12:1-2. When bad things happen, what is your initial response? How can you change that to worship?
5. Read Job 2:1-8. When Satan sees that his first tactic didn't work against Job, he tries again. Read John 8:44 and talk about how Satan is the father of lies. Share a time when you felt weak in your faith but were able to stand strong in God.
6. Read Job 2:9-10. Job stays faithful to God through all of his loss, grief, and pain. Read Psalm 37:34, Proverbs 3:5-6, Isaiah 40:31, and Romans 15:13. What did you learn from the life of Job and his commitment to God? <sup>1</sup>

**BECOME – Make application and determine to follow Christ better.**

Close the group by praying for God to help us lean into him, even when life is hard.

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<sup>1</sup> Discussion Questions :<http://www.nealbenson.com/2022/03/job-1-2-small-group-questions.html>