



Study Guide

Spring 2012 Sermon/Study Series

www.rbcpc.org/the-book-of-job

“Job’s Counselors”

Week #1
June 2/3, 2012

Next week: June 9 & 10 – Healthy Anger

Scripture Reference
Job Series – Week #1
“Job’s Counselors”

Read and reflect on the following scripture:

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

Notes:

Job 2:6-13

⁶ The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.”

⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. ⁸ Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

⁹ His wife said to him, “Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!”

¹⁰ He replied, “You are talking like a foolish ^[b] woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?” In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

¹¹ When Job’s three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. ¹² When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. ¹³ Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.

Notes:

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Scripture

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

God is referred to as the “Father of compassion”. Reflect on your life and thank God for times when He was the “Father of compassion” to you.

This Bible passage instructs us to comfort others with the same compassion that God shows us. Do you have someone in your life that you need to extend compassion? How would God show this person compassion?

Job 2:6-13

Job maintained integrity and did not sin in what he said. Reflect on what your response would have been to Job’s situation/trial.

Sermon

1. “God is so confident that the truth will prevail that God trusts us to finish reading the book and sort out for ourselves truth from error.” Have you ever relied on a half-truth to guide you? When you learned the rest of the truth did it change how you would have responded? How are half-truths dangerous?
2. Showing up was a wise choice of Job’s friends. Have you been summoned to help a friend/family member and immediately responded to them? What blessings resulted from “showing up”?
3. Finding the “right” words usually comes to the forefront of our mind when tragedy strikes. Bruce tells us that Bible tells us “we need to understand that silence is okay.” Reflect on the difficulty of being silent in difficult times. Find other Bible verses about listening.

Life Application

“People in sorrow don’t need our words, they need our time.” Be a minister of presence the next time a friend or family member finds themselves in difficult times. Be willing to be silent through their pain, coming alongside of them by listening.

Prayer

Pray that God will guide you when you are called to the ministry of presence. Ask Him for discernment of what to say or not say. Ask God to remind you of today’s lesson of not trying to give answers and solutions but instead be present and listen.