



Message Discussion Guide Week of June 18, 2023

Message: Word to the Wise, Part 3: Sweating the Big Stuff

Key Scriptures: [Job 38-42 \(select verses\)](#)

Preacher: Pastor Tom Parkinson

Message Highlights:

We've all heard the wisdom, "Don't sweat the small stuff." But what about the big stuff? The pain and suffering we experience in life are worth sweating.

The book of Job provides wisdom for how to handle moments of pain and suffering:

- Job is a righteous man who suffers the loss of his livelihood, children, and family.
- His friends blame him for his suffering, assuming he did something to deserve it.
- Job blames God, accusing God of being unjust.

In the book of Job, God doesn't speak until chapter 38. After all the questions raised by Job and his friends, God offers five important truths that we need to remember when we experience suffering.

When we suffer...

1. **God is near.** God is not distant when we suffer but is close to us. God speaks from inside our pain.
2. **Look around.** Suffering can cause us to lose perspective. It is helpful to look up and see God's bigger picture.
3. **Talk less, listen more.** Suffering is an invitation to silence. We don't have to find all the answers or the words to say. We need to let God speak into the silence.
4. **Remember who is in charge.** There is no suffering that can usurp God's good plans for us.
5. **Give God glory.** God's power, presence, and promises outweigh every trouble we face.

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) What is the most painful experience you have ever had? How did you get through it? How did your experience shape your faith?
- 2.) Job's friends assumed that Job had done something wrong and blamed him for his suffering. In their attempts to comfort Job, they said things wrong and were not helpful. What are some things that people say to try and comfort us when we suffer that are not helpful? What can you say to a friend who is suffering that is helpful?
- 3.) God speaks to Job out of the storm ([Job 38:1](#)). What is the significance of God being present in the storm? If God is near when we suffer, then why does it often feel like God is distant when we are in pain?
- 4.) Giving God glory means allowing God to outweigh our troubles. What are some practical ways you can give God glory when you suffer?
- 5.) What is your primary takeaway from this message? How will this message challenge, inspire, and impact your faith this week?

Abundant Life Tip: When you experience pain and suffering, remember to give God glory. God's presence, power, and promises outweigh any troubles you face.