

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of August 28, 2016

Job 1:6-12

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁶One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. ⁷The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." ⁸The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil." ⁹Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰Have you not put a fence around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹But stretch out your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." ¹²The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, all that he has is in your power; only do not stretch out your hand against him!" So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Connection Questions:

1. Our text in the book of Job describes a conversation that God is having with Satan about Job. Reread our text and discuss what you think the writer has in mind by including this conversation in his writings.

2. The word Job means "where is the Father" or "one who is treated as an enemy." Discuss how the meaning of Job's name is related to how the book is written.

3. If we are true to the Old Testament texts, God was perceived as orchestrating all life experiences. And yet at the end of Job, in the 42nd chapter, there is an acknowledgement that part of God is a mystery. How does this change how evil and good are perceived, or does it?

4. It is important to note God never leaves Job as he has to deal with the harsh realities in his life. What might this indicate about our relationship with God? If God is with us in suffering, does he cause it? If not, who does?

5. Does your understanding of God's activity in Job present any theological issues?

6. Rabbi Harold Kushner says, "If God could have prevented the Holocaust and he didn't, then that would prove that God is some kind of irresponsible monster." Discuss what you think he means and how does it relate to our faith development.

7. Our text indicates that Job was a good, decent person who trusted God with his life. And yet God told Satan he could test Job's character. Is this an argument for predestination? If not, what does this say about our issue with suffering in the world?

8. In the 42nd chapter of Job, the last chapter, it indicates that God gave Job twice as many possessions as he had at the beginning of the book of Job. Does this mean God blesses us materially if we are faithful to him? If not, what does it mean?

9. Can we explain the problem humanity has with evil in the world? Why or why not?

10. At the end of the book of Job, it indicates Job was blessed. How can we find God's blessings in the sufferings we go through in life? Share a story.