

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of September 4, 2016

Job 2:11-13

*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)**

<sup>11</sup> Now when Job's three friends heard of all these troubles that had come upon him, each of them set out from his home—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They met together to go and console and comfort him. <sup>12</sup> When they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him, and they raised their voices and wept aloud; they tore their robes and threw dust in the air upon their heads. <sup>13</sup> They sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

### **New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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.

### **Connection Questions:**

1. What is grief? Is it important that we learn to grieve as we are confronted with loss in our lives? Why or why not?

2. Discuss what you know about the grieving process.
  
3. In our text, Job's friends went to Job during a time when he was in deep grief. Sometimes when people we care about are grieving, it can leave us feeling uncomfortable in how we reach out to them. Discuss why some people avoid others while they are grieving. What are the risks if we don't reach out?
  
4. When Job's friends saw Job from a distance they could hardly recognize him and they began to weep. Do you think tears are an important part of the grieving process? Why or why not? Why do you think some people are uncomfortable with tears?
  
5. Dear Abby says, "Tears are a gift of God in moments of grief so when you're grieving cry your eyes out." Discuss what you think she means.
  
6. It is the custom, of some eastern cultures to wail (cry out loud) in moments of grief. Discuss your understanding of the differences between western and eastern cultures when it comes to grieving.

7. Our text implies that Job's friends came to him in his moment of grief and sat silently with him for a week. What do you think it means to sit silently with people as they are grieving?
  
8. "People as they heal from their grief often won't remember what you did in their moment of grief but they will remember your presence." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
  
9. The late Dr. Kubler-Ross, known for her work with death and dying, teaches us that healing from grief is a process we go through. Denial, anger, bargaining, and acceptance are the different stages we go through to heal from our loss. Do you agree with her and if so, how can this help us in ministering to grieving people?
  
10. Can grief make you physically sick? Discuss what you think.