

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 15, 2011

Passage: Job 32-33

Memory Passage: 1 Timothy 2:5-6

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 32:1-5, Gen. 22:21 & Ruth 4:19.** Why did Job's three friends stop their speeches against Job? Do you agree with this assessment of Job's speeches? Why or why not (give evidence from his speeches to back up your answer)?
- (b) What does Elihu's genealogy tell us about him, especially in comparison to Eliphaz, Bildad & Zophar? What bearing does this have on the way we interpret Elihu's argument?
- (c) Elihu is angry with Job because "He justified himself rather than God." What does this mean? Is this a sound reason for Elihu to take issue with Job? How does Elihu assess the 3 friends' speeches? To what question had they found no answer?
- (d) Three times these verses tell us that Elihu "burned with anger." Was his anger justified? Why/why not? Are you ever justified in your anger? If so, when, according to Scripture, is your anger justifiable? Do you ever justify your unjustifiable anger?
- (e) *Family: Read Job 32:1-5.* Teach your family why Elihu was angry (vs. 2-3), and ask/discuss 2 questions: First, "Is Elihu correct in his assessment of Job & his friends?" (you can have your family refer back to the summary sheets of each man's speeches to help answer), and second, "Does Elihu have a right to be angry & why?" If you have time, you can also ask, "Do you ever have the right to be angry?" and read passages like Matt 5:21-26, Eph. 4:26, 31, Col. 3:8 to aid in this discussion.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 32:6-22.** This section functions as Elihu's introduction to his speech and presents several important pieces of information: He discusses both his age & the source of his message. What reason does Elihu give for delaying his words (vs. 6-7)? What did he expect from those who were his elders?
- (b) According to vs. 8-9, what qualifies a person to be wise? Does Elihu claim this qualification for himself (see vs. 10, 17-20)? How does he come to the conclusion that the words of the 3 friends are not wise (vs. 11-12)?
- (c) Do you think it is/should be still customary for a younger person to hold their thoughts until older people speak? What would be the benefit for a younger person if they did wait to speak until others had spoken? If you are an "older" person, are you aware of your need to speak wisdom to, for, & in front of a younger generation, and how should you be preparing for this task? If you are a "younger" person, how do you discern when and when not to speak? How do you discern whether those who are older than you are speaking wisdom from above or the wisdom of men, and what should you do if they seem to be speaking the wisdom of men?
- (d) *Family: Read Job 32:6-22.* Teach Elihu's thought process found in these verses (I am young, so I waited for you, the older ones, to speak; you should have spoken wisdom but you did not; wisdom is not necessarily found in the aged, it is found in those who depend on the Holy Spirit for understanding; I have Spirit-inspired words burning in my soul, so I will speak now and you should listen). Ask, "Is Elihu's reason for speaking correct? Why/why not?" Then **Read 2 Tim. 4:12** and help your family understand and apply this verse to their lives in specific, concrete & practical ways.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Job 32:15-22.** Job describes his situation with very descriptive words. How would you summarize his thoughts?
- (b) Elihu claims that "the spirit within" him constrains him to speak. Do you think he has correctly discerned the root of his desire to speak? Why/why not? Have you ever felt constrained by the Holy Spirit to give counsel or voice an opinion? Be ready to share a situation with your group and what results it produced.
- (c) What is Elihu claiming in vs. 21-22? To whom is Elihu's ultimate allegiance? **Read Matt. 10:28 & 1 Thess. 1:3-6.** What similarities do you find between Elihu's claims and the words of Jesus & Paul?
- (d) Are you ever fearful of men more than God, or do you ever find yourself not being able to give true & wise counsel because of your fear of men or because you are more interested in giving flattering words than speaking the truth in love? How have you overcome this tendency in the past? How will you take comfort from & apply these verses when you are tempted in this way again?
- (e) *Family: Read Job 32:15-22* and teach them to your family. Then ask, "How do we know when to speak and when not to speak if we think someone else is thinking or doing something that is wrong (against Scripture)?" Then **Read Eph. 4:15, 25, & 29**, teaching your family principles concerning how to speak the truth in love while only saying things that edify.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Job 33:1-11.** In vs. 1-7 Elihu asks Job to both listen & speak. Is Elihu confused? Does he want Job to listen to his words or to speak to his words?

(b) Would you judge Elihu's words in vs. 6-7 to be arrogant or humble? Why? Is he trying to establish himself as Job's equal or is he trying to bring comfort to Job?

(c) Does Elihu accurately quote Job in v. 9? What about vs. 10-11? Even though Job never said he was, "pure, without transgression," the NT makes some rather startling statements about believers being pure. Read the following verses and record what you find, as well as at least 3 personal applications of these truths (be ready to share your applications with your group!): **Matt. 5:8; Phil. 1:9-11; 1 Tim. 1:5; 5:22; 2 Tim. 2:20-22; Titus 1:15; 2:3-5; 1 Pet. 1:22-23; 3:1-2; 1 John 3:2-3.**

(d) *Family:* **Read Job 33:9** and ask, "Did Elihu quote Job correctly?" (no, he never claimed to be pure & without sin, only blameless before God, and God affirmed Job's blamelessness in 1:8 & 2:3). Then ask, "Even so, are *we* required to be pure?" **Read Phil. 1:9-11** and focus on the command in v. 10, "so be pure & blameless." Then ask, "How do we become pure?" and draw their attention to v. 11 and point out that our purity comes through Jesus Christ and is for the glory of God. You can also **Read 2 Cor. 5:21** and teach that Christ, who was without sin, took on our sin so that we would be become "the righteousness of God" (pure & holy in God's eyes because of Christ's righteousness credited to our account) when we are saved ("in Him").

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Job 33:12-33.** Elihu says that Job is wrong (v. 12) and says that even though Job has said God will not answer him, God speaks in more than one way to man, even though man (Job) might not perceive it (v. 14). What is the first way Elihu says God speaks to man (v. 15)? What is God's purpose in speaking this way (vs. 16-18)?

(b) What is the 2nd way Elihu says God speaks (vs. 19-22)? What is the purpose of the mediator Elihu envisions for those experiencing discipline from God through suffering (v. 23c)? What can the mediator accomplish for the sufferer (vs. 24-25)?

(c) What is the response of the one being disciplined through suffering (vs. 26-28)? How does Elihu summarize God's disciplining of His people through suffering (vs. 29-30)?

(d) The essence of Elihu's argument is that God, through exhibiting mercy (vs. 14 & 29; speaking more than once), causes His people to suffer at times as a means of discipline to keep them from "going down to the pit" (vs. 18, 22, 24, 28 & 30). Does God really work this way? Have you ever felt this kind of discipline from the Lord? What should be our response to God when we experience this kind of discipline? **Read Heb. 12:3-14** and write down what you learn. Then spend some time in prayer thanking God for His loving discipline that proves you are His child, and ask for mercy and grace to help us in our times of need which is available to us because of the perfect work of our tempted, yet sinless, Christ (Heb. 4:14-16).

(e) *Family:* **Read 1 Tim. 2:5-6** (this week's memory verse). Spend time helping your family memorize this, teaching the truths presented in the verses as you memorize. You should tie these verses to Job 33:23-25, reminding your family that the only One capable of fully functioning as our Mediator and "delivering (us) from going down to the pit" is Jesus Christ.

DATE: May 15, 2011

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Elihu: I May Be Young, But . . .