

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 8, 2011

Passage: Job 31

Memory Passage: Romans 6:13

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Job 31.** In this chapter we find Job taking an oath of innocence in which he declares his innocence before God and man. The idea is this: Job lists sins of which he claims to be not guilty, and then pronounces a curse upon himself which he expects to be enacted if he is found guilty. If God does not answer him and activate the curse, then Job will consider himself vindicated. As you read this chapter, write down all of the sins Job claims he has not committed.

(b) Now write down the curses you find in this chapter. The curses will be found in the “then let” statements that follow all of Job’s “if” statements in which he lists the sins of which he claims innocence (you should find 4 curses).

(c) Now read vs. 35-37 and write down in your own words what Job is demanding. What is the basis for Job’s boldness in his oath of innocence? Is he justified in his boldness? Are you as bold as Job when it comes to your sin? Should you be?

(d) *Family:* Begin your lesson by placing a pair of shoes in the middle of the table and commanding them to “Walk!” As your family begins to snicker, engage them with some questions about why that is so funny, and finally get them to tell you that shoes don’t walk on their own, they need feet in them to walk. Then **Read Job 31:5-8** and teach that Job is claiming to not have committed any of these sins. Draw attention to the metaphors: “walked,” “foot,” “step,” & “gone after” and teach that Job is describing his life as one free from the sins of deceit, falsehood, and lust (as in a desire for anything wicked, or an idolatrous desire for things good). Then ask: “Our shoes need our feet to walk, but do our feet walk on their own?” (Answer: “No, we control them.”) Now read these passages and teach how we control our walks, that the Lord hates deceit and feet that run after evil, and why we should stay away from those who walk after evil: Ps. 119:59, 101; Prov. 1:15-16, 4:26 & 6:18.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Job 31:1-4.** What does Job mean by, “I have made a covenant with my eyes?” Does he mean in v. 1b that he never looks at a young woman? Has he sinned if he “looks” at a young woman? Is he avoiding the “look” or something else? What is Job wisely, implicitly, and honestly confessing by making this covenant?

(b) What three motivations for fleeing the sin of lust does Job present in the questions he asks in vs. 2-4? Do you see these as valuable motivations not to sin for your own life? Why or why not?

(c) **Read Matt. 5:27-30.** What similarities do you see between Job’s practice and Jesus’ commands? Was Jesus intensifying the 4th commandment or teaching what it always meant? How do you know?

(d) Are you struggling with sexual lust? Do you capitulate to this temptation or have you made a “covenant with your eyes” not to lust after men/women? Since this sin is so serious (reread Jesus’ words if you doubt that it is), what will you do to flee from this temptation beginning right now? (Things like: repent & trust in Christ’s work on the cross, install a content filter on my computer & give my wife/husband the password, refrain from watching sex scenes in movies/TV, meditate on/memorize Prov. 5 are just the tip of the iceberg)

(e) *Family:* **Read Job 31:24-28.** Explain that Job is claiming that he has never committed the sin of idolatry, specifically in the areas of trusting in wealth or worshipping creation. Teach your family the 1st & 2nd commandment (Ex. 20:3-6) and help them to realize what things/desires can be idolatrous in their own lives (anything they love, pursue, desire more than Christ).

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom 6:1-14.** Instead of analyzing all of the sins found in Job 31, we will take the next few days to discuss further how we as believers apply the gospel to our temptations & sin. What strong statement does Paul make in v. 11? Upon what truths is he able to make such a strong statement about the believer’s life (vs. 3-10)?

(b) What are believers not to do according to v. 12? What is the consequence for us if we disobey this command (v. 12b)? How do we obey v. 12a (see v. 13)? Why is all of this a possibility for believers (vs. 11 & 14)?

(c) Write down at least 5 examples of presenting your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness and at least 5 examples of presenting your members to God as instruments for righteousness. Why do you sometimes actively submit to sin when you are no longer under its dominion? When you are tempted to think that sin has power over you that you can’t resist, what do these verses teach you about the reality of sin’s power?

(d) *Family:* Make up a story about a wicked ruler who treats his subjects badly. Tell it from the vantage point of a man who suffers at the hands of this ruler, and be very descriptive about how evil the ruler is and how the man suffered at his hand (appropriate to the age levels of your children, of course, but get them hooked into the story!). Then explain that one day the

ruler was overcome by another ruler who was kind and the new ruler now had dominion over all of the subjects in the kingdom. But the man telling the story still has the desire to be dominated by the old, evil ruler and keeps trying to present himself to the old ruler instead of the new one. Begin a discussion about how your family feels about this, what they would tell the man, why they would tell him, how they would convince him to stop, etc. Then **Read Rom. 6:12-14** and teach your family these verses, using the fable as points of illustration for them.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 6:14-23.** Why does Paul attribute sin's lack of dominion over us to the truth that we are under grace rather than the law (v. 14)? Why does this truth prompt his opposition to say, "If this is true, then we have the freedom to sin!" (v. 15)? Do you ever entertain this kind of thinking, thinking through which you try to convince yourself that sin does not really matter because you are saved by & live by grace?

(b) According to verse 16, what is the moral choice we have facing us every time we are faced with temptation to sin? Are you conscious of this moral choice as you face temptation? Do you recognize temptation before it gives birth to sin & death (James 1:13-15)? If not, how might you begin to live more aware of your propensity to succumb to temptation and fight it with the gospel prior to actually sinning?

(c) What is Paul's foundation for knowing this choice exists for believers (vs. 17-18)? This is the indicative (statement of fact) upon which the imperatives (commands in vs. 12, 13 & 16) are accomplished so don't skip over this! Are you as thankful as Paul for this truth that is a result of Christ's finished work on the cross (notice the passive verbs "have become obedient," "having been set free from sin," "having become slaves of righteousness")?

(d) *Family:* Either place a locked box on the table or have your family stand with you outside of a locked door (you must have the key for either). Command: "Open the box (or enter the room/house)!" After they try but can't open/enter, present them the key so they have the ability to obey your command. Then **Read Rom. 6:16-18** and teach your family that God has not only commanded us to obey Him in righteousness, but He has also provided the "key" to obeying what He commands: Jesus Christ, who died on the cross so that we who believe on Him are set free from sin and are now slaves of the same righteousness He commands! Or as Augustine once prayed: "Lord, command what you will and grant what you command!"

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 6:15-23.** How does Paul describe his hearers' (and our) former lives (vs. 19-20)? What very good question does Paul ask his hearers (and us) about their former lives in v. 21? Why do you think Paul is reminding them of their past? Is it ever valuable (and if so, when) to think of our life prior to Christ?

(b) What vital truth does Paul bring us v. 22? Notice the difference between what God has already done (*have been* set free from sin, *have become* slaves to God; our justification) and what we participate in as a result of what God has done (sanctification, where our role is to present our bodies to God for righteousness rather than sin for unrighteousness).

(c) Based on what you have studied this week write in your own words how to apply Christ's finished work on the cross to your life of crucifying sin. Then, think of at least 3 areas of temptation to which you sometimes/often capitulate and apply these truths specifically to these areas. Be specific about how you will recognize and resist giving in to these temptations through the power of the gospel.

(d) *Family:* I'm out of space ☺ so here is your task for this lesson: Using specific examples of times members of your family are tempted to sin, apply the truths you/they have learned from Romans 6 this week. Your goal is to help them in practical ways so that the next time they face these temptations they can apply gospel principals.

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The Speeches: Job's Oath of Innocence