



Growth Group Discussion Questions

Series: Facts not Fears

Lesson: God Knows Everything

Primary Scriptures: Job Chapters 1 & 2

Lesson 6 - Week of May 10, 2020

DISCUSSION

We have all been faced with uncertainty in our lives, but the year of 2020 probably presents the most uncertainty than many of us have ever had to deal with for as long as we can remember. The COVID-19 pandemic has filled our lives with uncertainty over the economy, employment, finances, relationships and, of course, our physical, mental and spiritual health. As humans, we crave security. We want to feel safe and have a sense of control over our lives and wellbeing. Without some level of control, we can be overwhelmed by stress, anxiety, and the powerless direction that our lives seem to be taking. This feeling of uncertainty can drain you emotionally and trap you in a downward spiral of what-ifs and worst-case scenarios about what tomorrow may bring.

When life gets hard, we sometimes think that maybe God has left us. We wonder “if” He was here, would He ever allow us to face such hardships and fears. And we begin to think that God is not listening to us or addressing our needs. This kind of thinking is so far from true. God is here, He hasn’t left us, He is listening to us, and He knows everything that is happening in our lives. It’s our circumstances that cause us to drift away from God and not trust that His plan is right for us. God knows and understands the hopes and fears we keep in our hearts. In fact, He’s the best listener. He’s listening when we cry out loud or when we are silently mouthing our prayers. It’s important that we trust Him, especially during our darkest hours.

This lesson series, Facts NOT Fears, is about focusing on what we know to be true (God’s biblical promises) instead of what we hear from others, what we watch or read in the news, or the thoughts that come into our minds when we are overwhelmed. No matter how severe a trial is, we should never assume that God isn’t listening or doesn’t care. Sometimes our experiences are beyond our present understanding and there is a lesson that God wants us to learn. We’ll use examples from the Book of Job, which tells the story of a man who lost everything, but in the end, he is blessed with twice as much as before. As we go through discouraging and traumatic experiences, factual accounts like these can help us to learn to trust God patiently while waiting for Him to resolve our problems. The story of Job also shows us that God, sometimes, allows those under His care to suffer. Even with the pandemic, we know that God is all powerful and could have prevented it from occurring since it is impacting everyone. What we don’t know is the backstory - all the chaos that is going on in the spiritual realm. But...God knows.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In the first chapter of Job, we find that Job was a wealthy man who was blameless, upright, feared God and turned from evil. He always tried to do right by God, not only for himself but also for his children. What he didn’t know was that God and Satan were having a conversation about him. Satan believed that Job was only loyal because God had blessed him beyond measure. So, to prove Satan wrong, God allowed Satan to test Job (Job 1:6-12). This tells us that God was very much aware of what Job was going through and He controlled the narrative. He knows everything. Christ reminded His disciples in Luke 12:6–7 that God is so detailed oriented that He knows the number of sparrows

and He knows the number of hairs on our heads. If He knows this much about sparrows and our hair count, surely He knows more about our personal affairs since we are more valuable than birds.

When we are struck with personal tragedy or persecuted for obedience, we can be sure that God knows. Though Job could not begin to understand why all these things were happening to him, he knew God was aware of it. He did not react, as Satan had predicted, by cursing God. Rather, Job told his wife, **“Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?”** (Job 2:10). How are you responding through personal tragedies - like Job’s wife or like Job?

Fact #1: Your Faith will be Tested

1 Peter 1:6-7 compares the testing of faith to the purity and quality of gold in a fire. Genuine faith that has been put through suffering will come out proven genuine. It’s during the testing and trials that we develop character. We are not only told that we must undergo many tests throughout this life (James 1:2-4), as indeed all humans must, but we are also given a pattern to follow in handling them. Let’s face it; it’s hard enough to maintain a decent attitude when we go through troubles that we brought on ourselves. But when things happen that weren’t caused by us, then it seems virtually unfair. Either way, we must endure the test.

Fact #2: Christ is Our Example

1 Peter 2:19-20 tells us that, at times, we will be treated badly for good behavior. But when we continue as a good servant, God views this as commendable. We are also provided with a specific example in verses 21-23 (ESV) of the same chapter: “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.”

Fact #3: Fears and Worrying Will Change Nothing

Worrying doesn’t change anything. Instead, it distracts us and keeps us awake at night. It can even cause physical illness. Worrying serves no positive purpose; so why do we worry? We worry because we do not fully recognize who God is and that He loves us. We worry because we want to have control of our lives but know that we don’t. When we fully believe that God will take care of us, worry and fears will flee. Isaiah 35:4 says, “Say to those who have an anxious heart, Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.”

Questions:

1. Name two things that you know to be FACT about God as it relates to your suffering. Include the Bible reference so that you can share with others.
2. In what ways can the current pandemic build character in your life?
3. Do you believe that there is/was anything in your life that God doesn’t know? Why do you believe that?