

Review:

Lesson 1: Good and Evil

Lesson 2: Losing Everything

Lesson 3: Curse God & Die

Friends' Failures

Job 2:11-13; 22:5-6, 9-11

The ministry of presence is one to master. When we speak into grief in an effort to fix it, or to hurry it along, or in an effort to make ourselves feel less awkward, we are probably doing _____ than good.

Discussion 1. Can you recall things said to you in your grief or your suffering by friends or family trying to help, but which actually made it worse? Why do we find it so hard to just sit in silence with a friend who is suffering? Have you had the privilege of doing this for any of the people on your Prayer/Care/Share list?

_____ and admitting what we do not know is never more important than when we are counseling friends who are suffering or grieving. That is no time to be spouting theories about God.

Discussion 2. Humility seems harder and harder to find in our culture. Why do you suppose that is? Is there something about our culture that tends to discourage humility in public discourse?

We are right to read scripture as teaching there is a certain order to this world which lends some predictability to us; but we are wrong to assume that order is merely a reflection of our own sense of _____ and _____.

Discussion 3. If we cannot rely upon our own conscience to know what is truly right and truly wrong, what can we rely upon? How do we bring an objective source of truth to bear on those questions? Do you think God intends for that to require some work on our part?

The wisdom of this world will not help us with spiritual questions. Spiritual questions require _____.

Discussion 4. What spiritual disciplines in your life help you to distinguish between worldly wisdom and Godly wisdom? How important do you think it is for us to be able to make that distinction? How can you become a source of Godly wisdom to those on your Prayer/Care/Share list?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?