

Review:

**Lesson 1:** Good and Evil

**Lesson 2:** Losing Everything

**Lesson 3:** Life and Death

**Lesson 4:** Friends' Failures

## Hopelessness

Job 7:1-21

*Scripture treats hopelessness not as a function of suffering alone, but as a function of suffering over a prolonged period. It is a gradual loss, over time, of any notion that we are \_\_\_\_\_ of this life.*

**Discussion 1.** Do you believe there is a relationship between our need for control in our lives and how we manage difficult losses? Why or why not? If so, what can you do to better manage your own need for control?

*Human suffering is a paradox. It often seems interminable on the one hand and, at the same time, involves an overwhelming sense that the end is coming much faster than we can do anything about. It is \_\_\_\_\_ that way.*

**Discussion 2.** Have you ever suffered such a loss as to disorient you in some way? If so, how would you describe that disorientation? How did the loss confuse you or create chaos in your feelings?

*Not only can the God of the Bible handle our deepest and darkest moaning and crying out to him, but He wants the honest communication about what we are feeling. We need the therapy, and He wants the \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Discussion 3.** Do you find it easy or difficult to truly “unload” your pain and anguish on God, i.e., to be brutally honest about how you are feeling? Is there something in particular that helps you do this better?

*When bad things happen to us, we try to distinguish between God \_\_\_\_\_ suffering and God \_\_\_\_\_ suffering as a way of appeasing our own tiny sense of justice. That is an unnecessary distinction. The more important distinction is between our sense of justice and God's.*

**Discussion 4.** Why is it important to learn to distinguish between our own sense of justice and God's justice? What kinds of spiritual disciplines help you better understand God's justice?

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