

Review:

**Lesson 1:** Good and Evil

**Lesson 2:** Losing Everything

**Lesson 3:** Curse God & Die

**Lesson 4:** Friends' Failures

**Lesson 5:** Hopelessness

**Lesson 6:** We Need a Mediator

**Lesson 7:** Resurrection Hope

## Layers of Loneliness

Job 19:13-19

*The first layer of loneliness is feelings of being \_\_\_\_\_, when there seems to be no one anywhere who sees us, gets us, and understands who we are and what we are going through.*

**Discussion 1.** Recall a time or circumstance in your own life when you felt invisible, i.e., like the people around you just didn't seem to "see" you or understand you at all. Looking back on it now, do you think you were right? Why or why not?

*The second layer of loneliness is feelings of estrangement, especially from those closest to us. When those who know us best stop "seeing" us and stop standing with us, it feels like \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Discussion 2.** Recall a time or circumstance when you felt "estranged" from a close friend or loved one. Was it because of something you did/said or because of something they did/said? How did it add to your loneliness?

*The third (and deepest) layer of loneliness is feelings of being despised and rejected, i.e., that others are repulsed by me and \_\_\_\_\_ me as a veritable pariah.*

**Discussion 3.** Do you think feeling despised and rejected is more common in our current culture than in previous times? Why or why not? How might feeling despised or rejected actually draw us closer to Christ?

*We need a theology, i.e., an understanding of God, that acknowledges the depths of \_\_\_\_\_ and, at the same time, points us to the pathway out of it.*

**Discussion 4.** What is the risk of having a theology (or an understanding of God) that does not contemplate or help you cope with loneliness? What kinds of spiritual disciplines help you develop such a theology?

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