

GROWING SPIRITUALLY

One of the most difficult things to understand about God is why He allows such terrible suffering and difficulty to come into our lives. It is certain that God is powerful and is in control of all things; but when we experience pain, we wonder if He is really good. Though we are often prone to think our suffering in life is related to sin or poor choices we have made, the book of Job tells us something quite different. Sometimes we suffer for reasons that are too mysterious for us to know on this side of heaven. But, no matter the difficulty, God can use our suffering for our good since it provides a unique opportunity to experience the greatness of God in a way we would otherwise not have known. The great question for Job, and us as well, is nothing less than this: Do we worship and obey God because He blesses us, or simply because He is God?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your response to the book of Job? What are your thoughts about God letting Job be harmed by Satan?
2. Would you be willing to share a story about how you suffered through something that happened through no fault of your own?
3. How have you experienced God through the trials in your life and what lesson did you learn?
4. What are your thoughts on the fact that Job never found out why he suffered? What do you feel are the implications for you in the midst of your own difficulty?
5. Does it seem odd to you that Job is both rebuked and commended for the way he dealt with God? Why or why not?

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