

Believing and Trusting God

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Most of God's chosen servants experienced times when he/she didn't trust God but trusted him/herself. Choose a specific person that you can relate to. How did he/she respond to vulnerability? How did God help him/her to trust Him more completely?
2. Think of a time when you felt vulnerable. How did you respond to your situation?
3. All of us struggle to trust God. Sometimes we trust Him one day and trust ourselves the next day with the same issue. What makes it difficult for you to trust God? Use specific examples.
4. What helps you to trust God with the difficult things in your life?
5. Jesus is our great, high priest who sympathizes with our weaknesses because he was a man and subject to the same temptations that afflict us. How does that help you to draw near to His throne to find mercy and grace in time of need?

Weekly Application/ Personal Study Questions:

Vulnerable People and their Responses

Day 1: AVOIDANCE or HIDING

Read about Adam – Genesis 3.

What was Adam's response to God after he had sinned? Who had he believed instead of God?

What was the result?

How did God show mercy and grace to Adam even after Adam's behavior revealed his disbelief?

Day 2: DECEIT

Read about Abraham – Genesis 12 (especially v. 10-20).

Why did Abram and Sarai enter Egypt?

Why did Abram ask Sarai his wife to lie about their marriage?

What were the immediate benefits from Pharaoh?

What afflictions did the Egyptians suffer because of Abram's deceit?

What was the result?

How did God show mercy and grace to Abram? (You can read a bit of Chapter 13 if necessary.)

Day 3: FEELING INADEQUATE

Read about Moses – Exodus 3 – 4:17.

What did God tell Moses about his people? What did God ask Moses to do?

What was Moses response? What were his objections to God's proposal?

What powers did God give Moses to address his honest concerns?

Why does Moses finally refuse God in v. 13? Look at God's gracious provision for Moses in v 14 to understand the root issue.

Do you ever feel like it would be easier to believe God if He was physically in front of you? Did it help Moses?

Day 4: TRUSTING GOD

Read about Job – Chapters 1 and 2

What is God's assessment about Job's life in v. 1? Wow!!!

What does Job lose in a single day? Why? (1:6-12) How did Job respond toward God?

Day 5: LOSS of TRUST/ REGAINING TRUST IN GOD

Chapters 3-31 are Job's lament over his suffering and his search for an explanation.

(Remember, Job hadn't read chap 1:6-12!) His "three friends" dialogue with him claiming that all suffering results from sin. But after a sustained time of fierce suffering, Job succumbs to justifying his own thinking over God's – essentially trusting in his own understanding instead of trusting in God's goodness. (Chap 32:2).

Read any or all of chapters 38-41. This is God himself speaking to Job. Does God ever address Job's question requesting an explanation for his suffering? What kinds of detail does God bring up?

Read chapter 42. What new ideas does Job learn about God's character and power?

How does Job respond to God's case?

How does God show mercy and grace to Job?