UPC Family Daily Devotional

October - Week 1

Oct 3 Sunday Job 1:13-22

Satan strikes everything Job has, including his children. Job’s first response to these multiple disasters is human and natural; he grieves. Yet, within the same breath, he worships God. Grief and worship can happen at the same time. When we are faced with suffering in life, God does not expect us to ignore our pain or resolve our problem in order to be able to worship Him. In the very midst of suffering, we can go to Him.

How do you usually respond when suffering hits?

Oct 4 Monday Job 2:1-13

Job’s friends gather to comfort him after they learn about his misfortunes. Initially, they do the right thing by fully participating in his grief: they tear their robes, sprinkle dust on their heads, and sit with him in silence for seven days. They knew that speaking to Job would only hurt him because of the depth and intensity of his suffering.

How did you respond to your friends when they were going through extreme suffering? What words do you regret or wish you had said?

Oct 5 Tuesday Job 3:1-10

After seven days and seven nights of mourning, Job breaks the silence. Instead of cursing God as Satan intended, he curses the day of his birth, along with his conception and everything surrounding it. His despair is so great that he cannot even recall the time of abundance and peace that he enjoyed most of his life. If God allows, our joy and prosperity can disappear in the blink of an eye. This is why we must not stake our peace on our wealth or other tangible things of this world. Instead, we must find our peace in our Lord, Jesus Christ, whose love for us will remain the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow.

When have you, like Job, suffered the sudden loss of something that was valuable to you? During such a time, how was God’s unchanging character a comfort to you?

Oct 6 Wednesday Job 3:11-26

Job says he has neither peace nor rest but only turmoil. However, the word of God promises us that our suffering is not random or wasted. God has not left us to navigate the perplexities of our hardship alone.

Mention a Bible verse(s) that give you encouragement and instruction when faced with trouble.

Oct 7 Thursday Job 4:1-11

One of Job’s friends, Eliphaz who came to sympathize and comfort him starts his speech/ lecture. He firmly believes that a person sows what they reap, and suffering is brought on by personal guilt and nothing else. Words we think are gentle and soothing can pierce like a sword. Often, it is best to watch what we say but to continue in an attitude of empathy and prayer for one who is suffering.

How do you first react when others share their distress? Why does it help to be quick to listen and slower to speak?

Oct 8 Friday Job4:12-21

The insight of Eliphaz’s ghostly teacher turns out to be nothing more than common knowledge: of course, no one is more righteous than God!

Have you encountered someone who reported a direct and private spiritual revelation? How can you discern whether it is truly from God?

Oct 9 Saturday Job 5:1-16

The right approach for dealing with injustice is to appeal to God because He can be trusted to administer justice. In this regard, Eliphaz’s words in verse 8 agree with biblical teaching.

How do you usually respond when you experience injustice?