

BibleWise

Discussion Questions – Jonah

Read Jonah

Review the story of Job. Explain this is a drama. It opens with a description of Job's prosperity. He had everything he could ever want. We see that God is pleased and that Job is a good man and he honors God.

- What makes a "good" person?
- Describe someone you know who is good?
- Why is it important to be good?
- How do your parents, teachers, friends, treat you when you are good?
- How do you identify yourself?
- How would you answer the question, "Who am I?"
- What do you know about your nature?
- What does God know about you?

Talk about the debate between Satan and God. Satan tells God that anyone would praise God when life is good, but what happens if something goes wrong?

- Do you think God would even have a debate with Satan?
- Would God play with someone's life?
- Can you see why this is a drama and not an actual recording of events?
- Why do you think this story is in the Bible?
- What does it teach us about God? Humanity?

Discuss the story of Job starting with the visit of his three friends - Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar.

- Why are his friends visiting him?
- What do they recommend that Job should do? [Job 4:1-14:22 First cycle of speeches]
- What kind of comfort did they offer Job?
- Would you want them as your friends?

- Why or why not?
- Describe the perfect friend.
 - Do you have a friend like that?
 - Are you a friend like your description?
- Would any of Job's friends fit the description of a perfect friend?
 - Why? Or Why not?
- If you had been Job's friend, what would you have done to help him?
- After reading about Job's friends what do you learn about advice?
- Should we ever pay attention to what our friends say?
- What if we like our friends a lot and they recommend we do something that is bad, what do you do?
- How do you stand up to your friends when they are asking you to do something wrong?
- Do you feel insecure about breaking a friendship over standing for Principle?
- How did Job respond to his friends?
 - Did he cave in and do as they advised?
 - How did Job defend himself?
 - Are you willing to defend yourself?

Read Job 38:1-42:6

After Job goes through three cycles of speeches from his friends, and Elihu's angry response, to whom does Job speak next? [God]

- What does God say to Job?
- What does God say about the creation of the universe?
- Why does God mention He created the universe?
- When God asks Job to speak, what do you notice about his answers?
- How would you respond to God?
- Who or what are Behemoth and Leviathan? [Behemoth could be either a gigantic species of hippopotamus or water buffalo. Leviathan, according to some researchers, could be a crocodile or a sea monster.]
- Why are these creatures mentioned? [If Job wants to play God, he must rule these beasts.]
- What is Job's response to God? [Absolute awe of God's power.]

- When did you talk with God last?
- Why is prayer a form of talking with God?
- How often do you pray?
- Give an example of how you pray.
- List some of the Bible figures you have studied who had conversations with God.
- Why is it important to talk with God?
- Do you hold God in complete reverence?
- Would you argue with God or listen?