

Community Group Question Guide

JOB Part 2 of 6 – Eliphaz: The Compassionate Rationalist

Begin by reading Job chapter 3 out loud together

- Job's lament takes three related but different directions – can you identify the three?
- what do you make of Job's grief?
- have you ever experienced grief & lament anywhere near this intensity?

Read the passages below out loud together – as your reader proceeds, try to discern & note what you see as the major arguments of Eliphaz &, in response, Job.

Example: in 22:1-11, Eliphaz is very blunt w/ Job: *You have sinned miserably* (he even makes up transgressions not actually committed by Job). *That is why you suffer.* We know from chapter 1, however, this is not true.

Eliphaz adheres to the concept of *retribution*. *If you behave righteously, you will prosper. If you behave wickedly, you will suffer.* Case closed. So Job, your suffering clearly indicates you are clearly holding back some sin.

What other theological conclusions do you see in the words of Eliphaz? Job? What do you make of their tone / emotions / attitudes?

Now – looking at them through lens of the gospel of Jesus: which are true? Which do you think are not?

E.g. in comparison to Eliphaz's conclusions, Jesus clearly states: *if you follow me, you will suffer* (cf. John 15:20)

Here are the texts to read – just get to those for which you have the capacity and group patience!

The idea is to start getting comfortable with the rich poetry & develop your ability to discern the theological arguments.

Eliphaz speaks: Chapters 4&5

Job replies: Chapters 6&7

Eliphaz speaks: 15

Job replies: 16&17

Eliphaz speaks: 22

Job replies: 23&24