11/11/18 | JOB: When Life Hurts, Endure Patiently

"As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy." —James 5:11 | NIV

1. Does society today think suffering is deserved (like karma?)? How does this mindset affect our reactions and attitude toward suffering?

2. Did Job's friends think his suffering was deserved? How did that affect their reactions and attitude?

3. What stuck out to you from Job 3-37? What stuck out to you from the sermon?

Fairness

4. What does Matthew 5:45 tell us about the different ways God treats the good and the evil? From this, in what ways can we expect our righteous living to change the way God treats us?

5. What is our motivation for living good lives?

6. Read James 2:10. Can you be a better Christian than someone else? Can you be a worse sinner than someone else? How does God rank us?

7. Based on your answer, can you expect better, healthier, and richer lives with more "blessings" if you attain a higher rank before God? Explain.

8. When you go through hard times, do you ever try to use good behavior to demand relief, rewards, or favor from God? How well did that work?

Suffering
9. According to Romans 8:17, what is the result of suffering? Without suffering, what would happen instead?

10. According to 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, what is the result of troubles? Without troubles, what would happen instead?

11. According to James 1: 2-3, what is the result of trials? Without trials, what would be the result instead?

12. Based on these verses, what do we gain from hard times that is temporary? What do we gain from hard times that is eternal?

13. Read 1 Peter 4:12-16. What does Peter tell believers to do when we face suffering? What reasons does he give?

14. Which of the verses from this study sticks out to you the most? How does seeing the purpose of suffering encourage you through hard times?

TAKE AWAY: Hold on to God relentlessly.