

Checking In

1. Take a few minutes to check in with everyone, see how they are doing, and open with prayer.
2. Church Life: Baptisms on March 4th; Women of Hope event Saturday March 10th; Nourish and Grow Women's Retreat April 13th-14th at Mission Hills; Ministry Partners needed for Children, Student, Music, and Host ministries; Golf Tournament for Jordan Mission Team March 18th, \$75 per player.

Learning

Knowing God

Key Doctrines

- *Creation* – Suffering and evil are mysterious forces in our world that cannot be explained away, fixed, or avoided by human effort or wisdom.
- *Humanity* – God made us to be in life-giving relationship to each other, relationships that are often challenged by suffering.
- *Redemption* – God deals with suffering and evil not by “explaining it” to human beings, but by becoming a human being and experiencing it with us as our friend and companion.

Key Observations

- What was anything that stood out to you about this week's sermon, or what did you take away?
- *Read: Job 38:1-11; 40:6-14; Proverbs 3:5-6.*
 - How does God respond to Job's honest complaint's and accusations against His character? *He responds not by 'answering' Job's complaints and questions, but by questioning Job himself.*
 - What is the intended effect of the questions that God has for Job? *God intends both to humble Job by reminding him of how little he understands, but also to make Job wise by reminding Job that though suffering, evil, and chaos are a part of life, he can 'trust in the LORD with all of his heart.' Also God proves to be Job's friend who dignifies Job's suffering by not trying to “explaining it away.”*
- *Read: Job 42:7-9; Proverbs 17:17; 18:24; 26:7-9; 27:6.*
 - What is it about Job's 'friends' that God finds offensive? *Specifically they have bad 'theology,' that is they haven't “spoken of [God] what is right.” In the presence of their friend who was suffering they became his accusers before God, thinking they knew God and his ways when they didn't. They had “wisdom” on their lips, but they had the mouths of fools. Their proverbial wisdom only deepened Job's agony rather than empathized or healed it.*
 - What is the purpose of friendship? *True friendship is given for the sake of “love at all times” and companionship when all others have forsaken you.*
- *Read: John 15:12-15*

