

❖ **Digging Deeper:** Introduction to Job

- Note: the focus of the study as we begin an introduction to the book of Job is not so much Scripture analysis, but mutually understanding that you are suffering, most often God does not explain why” but more often shows us the “what” that he wants us to do in the midst of the storm.
- Suffer/Suffering: The word is found 120 times in the Bible with good reason. Examine the following verses and explain what they tell us about suffering:
 - Psalm 30:5:
 - Matthew 16:21:
 - John 16:33:
 - Romans 5:3-5:
 - 1 Corinthians 12:26-27:
 - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10:
 - Philippians 1:27-30:
 - 2 Timothy 2:3:

- James 1:2-4:

- Now see if you can summarize in a line or two what you have learned from this variety of Scriptures:

- Discuss: No one wants trouble or suffering and no one would choose it if we had a choice. But often God uses suffering to teach us or change us in ways that could not have happened apart from suffering. What is the value of understanding this even before suffering comes?

- Discuss: Job is never told why all the bad things that happen to him have occurred. In the end, God only explained what Job could have or should have known and been willing to trust. As we begin the study of the book of Job, why is this important to know as we begin?

- Discuss: As a group, list some questions that you hope to see answered about suffering or trouble or anything as we begin this study...

❖ Taking it Home...

- **Pray:** Thank God for the opportunity to have hope in the midst of a world that does not seem to know or understand true hope.

- **Confess:** Confess to God the times when we have sought answers to the question “why?” Rather than “what am I supposed to learn through this?”

- **Who** can you ask to pray with you and encourage you as we begin this journey to trust God’s wisdom in the midst of the storm and to learn all that God intends us to learn?