

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Sunday, November 10, 2024

Series Title: The Power of Gratefulness

Title: Job - Gratitude in the Midst of Suffering

Key Scriptures: Job 1:13-22, Job 2:7-10; Job 13:15; Job 42:10-12

Introduction

The story of Job, found in the Old Testament, teaches us about faith, resilience and gratitude through the life of a man who faced unimaginable suffering. Job was a prosperous and righteous man, blessed with wealth, health and family. However, he encountered profound losses that tested his faith and character. Even so, amid his trials and tribulations, Job demonstrated an extraordinary ability to maintain an attitude of gratitude and to find hope in God. Job's story reminds us of the importance of staying rooted in our faith and in our local church where we receive teaching, encouragement and support to guide us through life's challenges.

The Trials of Job (Job 1:13-19; Job 2:7-8)

Job's suffering begins when he loses his livestock and servants due to raiders and natural disasters. Then, he hears the devastating news that all ten of his children have died in a tragic accident. Shortly afterward, he is afflicted with painful sores from head to toe. Can you imagine enduring such loss and hardship – and all at once? Despite these overwhelming losses and his great sorrow, Job did not turn away from God. Instead, he fell to the ground and worshipped God. Job's initial response, including tearing his robe and shaving his head, demonstrates that he was heartbroken and yet revered the Lord. His ability to endure such pain and sorrow shows us that faith can provide strength, even in our darkest hour.

Job's Expression of Grief and Faith (Job 1:20-22)

While Job grieves deeply for his losses, he also demonstrates gratitude for the blessings he once had. In the face of immense sorrow, Job responds with a profound statement of faith and resilience, declaring: "...Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:21).

While Job openly acknowledges his pain and confusion, he chooses not to curse God. Job's remarkable ability to honor God and express gratitude amid such great suffering and loss illustrates a strong character rooted in His unwavering faith in the Lord. True gratitude should not depend on our circumstances but rather on our faith in God's goodness, grace and sovereignty. Regardless of our situation, in Christ Jesus, we have the victory!

Job's Dialogue with Friends and God (Job 13:15)

Job's friends come to comfort him but end up questioning his integrity, suggesting that his suffering must be punishment for sin. Job talks with them, asserting his innocence and expressing his desire to speak with God. He says, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15), showing his unwavering faith despite the pressure to give up. Job's willingness to stand boldly – even when facing opposition - reflects the importance of maintaining our faith during difficult times.

We must continually trust in God's plan and process even when we don't have clear answers or cannot see a way out! It's also important to surround ourselves with fellow believers. Colossians 3:15 says, "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." By staying connected to our church and spiritual leaders, we can find the encouragement, support and guidance needed to maintain a spirit of gratefulness and remain strong in our faith journey.

Job's Refusal to Curse God (Job 2:9-10)

After losing everything, even his health, Job's wife tells him that he should simply "curse God and die" (Job 2:9 (NIV)). However, Job responds wisely, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?' In all this, Job did not sin in what he said." (Job 2:10 (NIV)). Job's response highlights his inner strength and spiritual maturity. He chose to trust in God even when facing unimaginable suffering, judgment and criticism from those closest to him and did not sin with his words. He understood that life brings both joys and hardships – and real faith means trusting God through both.

The Restoration and Renewal of Job (Job 42:10-12)

In the end, after enduring profound suffering with unwavering faith, Job is restored, receiving twice as much as he had before, including children, wealth and a long, fulfilling life (Job 42:10-12). His story highlights the rewards of resilience and gratitude, demonstrating that faith through trials can lead to renewal and blessing. In times of need, we can trust that God sees our struggles and will bring restoration in His time – but we must remain steadfast in our faith.

Conclusion

The story of Job is a timeless example of maintaining a grateful attitude – even in the midst of great sorrow and suffering. While going through trials is an unavoidable part of life, remaining grateful and hopeful in Christ gives us strength to stand in the midst of them and ultimately brings healing. Just as Job honored God – without a sense of entitlement or bitterness - we are encourage continually bless the Lord and honor Him in everything we go through.

1 Thessalonians 5:18: "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Practical Ways to Cultivate Gratitude

- **Consistently Attend Church Services and Stay Involved:** Remaining under the spiritual leadership and connected through ministry involvement and the great fellowship found at Harvest Life Church will help keep you strong, faithful and in alignment with God's Word.
- **Start Your Day with the Word:** Start your day by reading your Bible and reflect on God's promises, faithfulness and goodness.
- **Prayer:** Spend time in prayer, thanking God for His blessings and seeking His guidance, especially in times of hardship.
- **Gratitude Journal:** Keep a journal where you write down things you are thankful for, even if they are small. Reflecting on these entries helps you focus on positive aspects of life and find blessings, even in difficult seasons.
- **Acts of Kindness:** Engage in acts of kindness to show God's love toward others. Helping those in need can shift your focus from your struggles to the blessings you can share.

Key Scriptures on Gratitude:

- **Psalm 100:4:** "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."
- **Colossians 3:17:** "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."
- **1 Chronicles 16:34:** "O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever."
- **Philippians 4:4:** "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."
- **Lamentations 3:22-23:** "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

Name: _____

SUNDAY SCHOOL HOMEWORK

November 10, 2024

Lesson: Job - Gratitude in the Midst of Suffering

Introduction

- 1. Circle the correct answer:** In the midst of Job's trials and tribulations, he demonstrated an extraordinary ability to maintain:
 - a. A mindset of defeat
 - b. An attitude of gratitude
 - c. A pity party
 - d. A spirit of complaining

The Trials of Job

- 2. Circle the correct answer:** How did Job respond initially when he heard of all his devastating losses?
 - a. He cursed God
 - b. He rejoiced
 - c. He tore his robe, shaved his head, and worshipped God
 - d. He consulted his friends

Job's Expression of Grief and Faith

- 3. True or False (circle the answer):** While Job grieved deeply for his losses, he also demonstrated gratitude for the blessings he once had.
- 4. Fill in the blanks:** In the midst of his affliction, Job said the following words in Job 1:21, "...Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord _____, and the Lord hath _____; _____ be the name of the Lord."

5. **True or False (circle the answer):** True gratitude should not depend on our circumstances but rather on our faith in God's goodness, grace and sovereignty.

Job's Dialogue with Friends and God

6. **True or False (circle the answer):** We must continually trust in God's plan and process even when we don't have clear answers or cannot see a way out.

Job's Refusal to Curse God

7. **Circle the correct answer:** From the lesson, we understand that life brings both joys and hardships – and real faith means...
- a. Doubting God
 - b. Walking in fear
 - c. Letting your problems weigh you down
 - d. Trusting God through both

The Restoration and Renewal of Job

8. **Fill in the blank:** In Job 42:10, the Bible says "... The LORD gave Job _____ as much as he had before."

Conclusion

9. **Fill in the blanks:** 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "In everything _____: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Practical Ways to Cultivate Gratitude

10. **Answer the question:** List two practical ways from the lesson to cultivate gratitude.

1. _____

2. _____

Key Scriptures on Gratitude

11. Fill in the blanks: 1 Chronicles 16:34 says, “O give _____
unto the Lord; for he is _____; for his mercy endureth for
ever.”