

GROUP GUIDE

NEWSPRING CHURCH

THE LIFE OF JOB

GETTING PAST THE PERFORMANCE TRAP

WEEK 5



BIG IDEA

The life of Job might be filled with suffering, but ultimately his is a story of hope. Through this series, we've seen several keys to living the kind of blessed life that Job enjoyed in the second half of his life. Today we will see that if you want your life to be blessed, you must push past the performance trap. We can do that when we realize we are not loved by God because of our performance but because of our position as His children.

GET STARTED

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What is one rule in the house you grew up in that you never agreed with?

What about in church? Have you ever been confused in church because of some of the rules you heard there?

> WATCH THE CLIP FROM PERRY'S MESSAGE.

DISCUSS

Put yourself in Job's shoes. How would you have responded if people spoke to you like these men? Why?

What should these men have done instead?

The men were looking for a reason for Job's suffering, and in their mind, it could only be because of Job's sin. That's the voice of legalism. Legalism misunderstands what God's love really is. While legalism says to do more and try harder, Christianity says that God loves you. Period.

What does it look like if you do believe God loves you unconditionally?

Most of us struggle to believe God loves us. We obey Him because we think He will like us more if we do, or because we're worried about what He'll do to us if we don't.

In his message, Perry asked several questions to help us see if we are caught in the trap of trying to perform to earn God's love.

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QUESTION 1: "DO I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE JESUS LOVES ME?"

What are some of the reasons why you struggle to believe Jesus loves you?

When bad things happen, most people wonder if the love of God is real. They wonder how God could love them if He let this thing come into their lives. But in that situation, a person is letting his circumstances define his theology rather than letting his theology define his circumstances.

> READ ROMANS 5:6-8 AND 1 JOHN 4:10-11

How do we know what love is according to this passage? Is it determined by our circumstances?

Why is it important to see that Christ died for us while we were still sinners?

QUESTION 2: "DO I FEEL LIKE I AM ALWAYS DISAPPOINTING JESUS?" HAVE YOU EVER FELT THAT WAY? WHY?

How might our other relationships influence the way we see our relationship with God in this area?

Why is it freeing to you to know that you have not and will not disappoint God?

QUESTION 3: "DOES IT SEEM LIKE JESUS IS A HARD MAN WHO JUST WANTS ME TO WORK HARDER?"

Have you ever felt like you could never do enough to please God? Why?

> READ MATTHEW 11:28-30.

How have your burdens lightened as you walk with Jesus?

QUESTION 4: "DOES IT SEEM TO ME LIKE JESUS IS DISTANT AND UNINTERESTED?" WHEN HAVE YOU FELT LIKE THAT?

> READ ISAIAH 43:1-3.

Why is it important to see that these verses use the word "when" instead of the word "if"? What is God's promise?

NEXT STEPS

Help your group identify what next steps we need to take together.

How is the way we treat each other as Christians a way of reminding each other of God's love?

How does the way you obey God need to change to show you truly believe in His love?

Who is someone in your life who needs to be reminded of God's love?

PRAY

Thank God for His love without condition. Thank Him for proving His love not by your circumstances but by the cross.

LEADER TIPS

Midway through this week, send a follow-up email to your group with some or all of the following:

- Questions to consider as they continue to reflect on what they learned this week:
 - **Have you thought about God's love today? Why or why not?**
 - **Have you found yourself trying to prove yourself at work or in relationships today? How does Jesus want to free you from that?**
- A note of encouragement, following up on any specific prayer requests mentioned during your group gathering.
- The challenge to memorize Matthew 11:28-30.