

Teen Devotion

Year B – Easter

Resurrection Reality



One truth shared: Jesus gives hope even amid suffering.

*Oh, that my words were recorded,
that they were written on a scroll,
that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead,
or engraved in rock forever!
I know that my redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand on the earth.
And after my skin has been destroyed,
yet in my flesh I will see God;
I myself will see him
with my own eyes—I, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!*

Job 19:23-27

Having everything when you have nothing

Has anyone ever suffered more? It would be hard for anyone to compare their pain or loss with Job. In one day Job lost all of his wealth and all ten of his children. Yes, that's right, *all ten* in one day. Just like that—POOF!—everything valuable, near, and dear to him was gone. As if that was not enough, Job was afflicted with painful sores on his skin from head to toe, so painful that he tried to find relief by scraping his skin with broken pieces of pottery. And to top it all off, soon his friends and his wife turned on him saying this was probably his fault and he should just curse God and die.

Who could ever imagine Job's hurt? Who could ever know his pain? The physical and emotional turmoil is beyond comprehension. And yet . . . that doesn't mean you don't know pain.

You may not have suffered as deeply as Job, but you certainly have still suffered. You probably know loss from a boyfriend or girlfriend you broke up with, a friend who betrayed you, or maybe even a loved one who has passed away. You probably know hurt from mean words and gossip about you, or disappointment in school, or turmoil in your own family. And you most certainly know fear. What will happen next? What will you do after school? What will your future look like? Will you make the right or wrong decisions?

We aren't living in a comparison game, as if I shouldn't feel bad because my life isn't as bad as Job's was. No, the reality is that *all* of us live as sinners in a world that's broken by sin. That means that *all* of us suffer hurt, pain, and loss in varying degrees. And any and all suffering can quickly make us feel helpless and hopeless.

Yet even though he suffered greatly, Job wrote a confession of faith that puts everything in perspective for us. "I know that my redeemer lives," Job said. Though everything else was failing and dying, Job knew that he had a redeemer, a Savior who was winning and living. Moreover, Job knew that one day he himself would see that living Savior face to face in heaven—a place with no hurt, no pain, no loss, and no tears. How his heart yearned for that day!

Easter Sunday proves that Job's hopes were not in vain. His redeemer, *our* redeemer, Jesus, does live. He crushed Satan at the cross as he paid for sin, and he conquered death and hell when he rose from the grave. Jesus promises that, "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19). Because Jesus rose back to life, we *will* rise to life with him in heaven.

You will suffer in this broken world. You will have hurt, pain, and loss. Sometimes even in extraordinary and awful ways like Job. But you also have Jesus. That means that when you feel like you have nothing, you actually have everything. You have hope. You have peace. You have a perfect life in heaven waiting for you. Oh, how our hearts yearn within us!

Prayer: Risen Savior, sometimes I have so much hurt and pain. Sometimes I suffer so much. But you also suffered and died for me, and then rose from the dead in victory. Continue to comfort me with the peace of knowing that one day I will see you face to face in the joys of heaven, and lead me safely there. Amen.

Foundation Teen Facilitators Guide

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***Starting the Discussion:** This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.*

Sometimes we make a big deal about losing or breaking things that aren't really *that* important in the big picture. Share some things you've lost or broken over the years that really upset you at the time, but maybe weren't such a big deal.

***Connecting:** This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they've looked at it.*

- There are things though that we do suffer that are a big deal. What are some things that teens go through and suffer right now that are the most difficult to handle?
- What do you think is the hardest thing for a teen to endure? Why?

***Digging In:** Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.*

- What do you think was the worst thing Job suffered and had to endure? Why?
- What, specifically, about the resurrection would have been so comforting to Job after all that he had been through?
- Try to describe how life would be different if Jesus had not been raised from the dead.
- Agree/Disagree: A real Christian who trusts in Jesus and his resurrection should never be sad about suffering pain or loss. Explain your answer.

***Conclusion:** Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the "connecting question" above.*

- Discuss what a proper perspective is on suffering for a Christian. How does that change the way we live and experience life compared to other people?
- Discuss how we can be more encouraging to one another when we see fellow Christians suffering.