

GodSense

Lesson 4 (Principles 19-23)

TEACHER NOTES

I. Review Lesson 3 assignment

II. Introduction

Ask: Have you ever had a problem that you could not solve on your own? Give examples: divorce, job loss, loss of reputation, death, cancer, 9/11. What was your emotional reaction? How did the situation affect your relationships? How did it affect you spiritually? How might you have handled the situation differently? We don't recognize where our trust is placed until our foundations are attacked.

Where do you turn? Who can help? What/who do we trust? Husband? Employer? Government? Ourselves? All of these will fail us as some time or another. How do we transfer our trust to God? How do we know He will never let us down? Is He trustworthy?

III. When the foundation crumbles

Job 1-2

Tell the Job story: strong, successful, in control, faithful, unruffled; then tragedy strikes.

A. Stop relying on own efforts

Proverbs 28:26

Ask: What areas of your life are you struggling with right now? List them. How are these matters affecting your relationship with others and with God? Do you question God's faithfulness? Do you wonder if He really cares for you?

B. Realize that God is enough

Psalm 86:1-4

"Sometimes we don't know that Jesus is all we need until Jesus is all we've got." How would your life be different if God were not in it? What if all you had was your relationship with God? Would it be enough?

IV. It's the object of your trust that matters

Sometimes we pray for more faith. It may not be a matter of having enough faith, but directing the trust to a trustworthy object.

A. Trust's focus

Job 1:1-4

Let's consider the trustworthiness of God. He is the ONLY object worthy of our unquestioning trust. He is consistent, loving, unshakable, all-powerful. Believing that, then the key to trusting God in times of crisis is having developed an intimate relationship with Him when times are good. What do we find in this passage that tells us Job had done that?

i. Job 13:15 *Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him (KJV)*

ii. I Thessalonians 5:24 *If God says it, He will do it.*

Deut. 32:4 He is the Rock, a faithful God

B. Knowing the One you can count on

Hebrews 11:6 *Must believe He exists and rewards those who seek Him*

i. Jesus reveals the Father

Hebrews 1:3 *Jesus is exact representation of the Father*

ii. History reveals God's ways

I Corinthians 10:11 *These things written as examples*

iii. God reveals Himself through relationship with Him

I Peter 3:12 *God's ears attentive to the prayers of the righteous*

James 4:8 *Come near to God and He will come near to you. God is a person with a personality and we cultivate relationship with Him just as we do with people here on earth. Time spent, talking, listening, serving, loving*

The better you know Him, the more you will trust Him.

This study is based upon the book entitled *The GodSense Devotional* by Beverly Van Kampen. If you have any questions about this material or if you would like to know more about *GodSense*, please visit the author's website at www.beverlyvankampen.com.

V. Giving up control

Once you determine that God is trustworthy, exercise that trust. Give up trying to control circumstances and people. Give up trying to solve your problems.

What if everytime this situation came to your mind, you gave it up to God? 100 X a day if necessary. Your problem is transformed into a path to relationship with God. Freedom results.

A. Psalm 20:7 *Some trust in chariots and horses, we trust in God*

B. I Peter 5:6-7 *Humble self under mighty hand of God*

VI. Keeping your eye on the outcome

Job 42

Ask: What had Job learned by this time? How did he view himself? How did he now view God? How did God reward him? Did he ever find out in his lifetime why these tragedies came into his life? Imagine his “aha” moment when he entered heaven and found out all that had been going on behind the scenes.

VII. Rewards of trust

A. James 1:2-4 *Spiritual maturity*

B. Galatians 2:20 *Christ lives in us; self is crucified*

C. Philippians 4:11-13 *Contentment and perseverance in all circumstances*

D. Psalm 37:5-6 *God’s approval*

ASSIGNMENT

Lesson 4

Bible study

Read II Corinthians 11:22-12:10 and answer the following questions:

(1) In chapter 11 verses 22-27, Paul lists the sufferings he has endured during his ministry. Write down several of them here.

Worked hard, been in prison, flogged, exposed to death, 40 lashes (5X, beaten with rods, stoned, shipwrecked, open sea, dangers: rivers, bandits, countrymen, Gentiles, in the city, in the country, at sea, false brothers; gone without sleep, food, and water. Endured coldness and nakedness.

(2) What burden does he express in verses 28-29? What does this concern tell us about his character?

He is concerned about the churches he is establishing and nurturing. When they have problems, he suffers with them. His character is empathetic, truly trying to help, wanting to please God in the efforts to make sure Christ's message is carried on.

(3) When special experience did God give to Paul as it is described in chapter 12, verses 1-4?

He was caught up into heaven, heard inexpressible things.

(4) Why does Paul tell this story as if it had happened to someone else and not to him?

He is trying to tell them of this experience without putting himself forward as a spiritually superior person.

(5) What was the reason that Paul was given a "thorn in the flesh"? (v. 7)

To keep him from becoming conceited, to torment him – a messenger from Satan

(6) What did Paul pray concerning that thorn? (v. 8)

He prayed three times that it would be removed.

(7) What was the answer to his prayer? (v. 9)

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God did not remove the problem, but promised that His grace would carry Paul through the difficulty.

(8) What does verse 10 tell us about continuing to trust God even when we are facing difficult circumstances in our lives?

We should not fight the troubles we face, but should be glad that they allow God's strength to be at work in our lives.

Journaling

What troubles your mind these days? What can sometimes keep you awake at night? Write about your problem, your emotional response to the difficulty, and how you are dealing with the situation. As you go through this process, allow God to enter your thoughts to give you insight into new ways to handle the problem or whether you should give up control entirely to Him.

Prayer

Keeping in mind that we are told in the Bible not to be anxious about anything, but to pray about everything, pray. Tell God exactly what is on your mind even if it seems too minor to “bother” Him with or even if it seems too overwhelming to even speak out. Give over to God the burdens you cannot bear. Tell Him that you trust Him to uphold you, to deal with issues and people as He sees fit, and to make you stronger and more dependent on Him in this growing process. Thank Him for what He will do with the problems you have turned over to Him.

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