

Hope for Hard Times: Leader's Guide

Videos are available at: www.karenbaney.com/hope-for-hard-times

This study is designed for **six** meetings.

For the first week, the session video introduces the Book of Job. All the remaining sessions summarize and add to the previous week's personal study.

The weekly homework is divided into four days and will take approximately one hour to complete. It is designed in a way that students can spread out one day's worth of homework over multiple days, if needed.

Job is 42 chapters long and this study will be our guide to work through every verse of every chapter. God's Word long ago is just as relevant to us today.

Session I

Before the Session

Pray for each member by name. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to each of the members and to remove any obstacles that might keep them from coming to class.

Have name tags ready, to help everyone learn each other's names.

Session

Start the session by introducing yourself and getting to know each other.

Turn to page 2 and read the Tips for This Study. Consider allowing a few minutes for students to mark the pages in their Bible as described on page 2.

Turn to page 3: Questions Job Asked. During the first few weeks of the study, we will add all the questions that Job asks to these pages. Be sure to include the verse reference. When writing down the questions, encourage students to paraphrase the question in their own words.

Example (paraphrased):

Job 3:11 – Why was I born at all if I was destined to suffer?

Job was just as human as we are, and his questions were not threatening to God. This list of questions is designed to help us see all the questions that Job asked. We ask these questions but are too afraid to say them out loud. We are not alone in our feelings when going through hard times.

Turn to page 6. Ask the students to complete the Job Life Lessons Quiz. Then review the answers together (page 30). The purpose of this quiz is to show us our false assumptions about the Christian Life. Allow 15 – 20 minutes for this exercise.

Teaching

Watch the video: Session 1: Unrealistic Expectations. The guide is on page 7.

Discussion

Walk through the discussion questions following the session notes. Finish with prayer requests or praying as a group.

Session 2

Before the Session

Pray for each member by name. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to each of the members and to remove any obstacles that might keep them from coming to class.

Session

Read the definition of retributive suffering and redemptive suffering on page 20. Also read the quote from Christoph Ash on page 20. Its particularly important as we continue through the study of Job that we understand Job was living out redemptive suffering, but his friends treated him as if he were going through retributive suffering. Be aware of the context of who is speaking and their world view. This is critical for an accurate interpretation of the Book of Job.

Teaching

Watch the video: Session 2: Hope During Trials.

Discussion

Walk through the discussion questions following the session notes. Finish with prayer requests or praying as a group.

Session 3

Before the Session

Pray for each member by name. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to each of the members and to remove any obstacles that might keep them from coming to class.

Teaching

Mention that the session notes are two pages long this week. Watch the video: Session 3: Comfort Others Well.

Discussion

Walk through the discussion questions following the session notes. Finish with prayer requests or praying as a group.

Session 4

Before the Session

Pray for each member by name. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to each of the members and to remove any obstacles that might keep them from coming to class.

Teaching

Watch the video: Session 4: Fickle Feelings Freak Us Out.

Discussion

Walk through the discussion questions following the session notes. Finish with prayer requests or praying as a group.

Session 5

Before the Session

Pray for each member by name. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to each of the members and to remove any obstacles that might keep them from coming to class.

Teaching

Mention that the session notes are two pages long this week. Watch the video: Session 5: What God Wants from Us.

Discussion

Walk through the discussion questions following the session notes. Finish with prayer requests or praying as a group.

Session 6

Before the Session

Pray for each member by name. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to each of the members and to remove any obstacles that might keep them from coming to class.

Have name tags ready, to help everyone learn each other's names.

Teaching

Mention that the session notes are two pages long this week. Watch the video: Session 6: Who Is God?

Discussion

Walk through the discussion questions following the session notes. Finish with prayer requests or praying as a group.