

It's a job to be Job!

JOB 2:11-13

Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.

LESSON 7

1. What truth, verse, or insight from last week's study of **Job 2:1-10** was helpful to you?

2. Pray and read **Job 2:11-13**; then meditate on these three verses that introduce us to Job's friends. What grabs your attention?

3. In **V11**, who are Job's three friends? Do you think there is any significance that his friends were from different places or backgrounds? Explain.

4. How do you suppose these three men heard of Job's troubles?

5. Job's friends came to "sympathize with him and comfort him." Write the definitions of:
 - Sympathize

 - Comfort

6. When have you met together in agreement with friends to come to aid, comfort, or support another person?

7. a) What do you learn about the ultimate Friend in regards to:
 - Comfort (**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**)

 - Sympathy (**Hebrews 4:15-16**)

b) What more do you see about God's comfort in:

Isaiah 49:13 _____

Isaiah 66:13a _____

c) In what current situation are you drawing upon and cherishing these aspects of His friendship?

8. a) Read **V12**. What is the initial realization and reaction of Job's friends when they saw him from a distance?

b) What might Job have looked like for him to be nearly unrecognizable to his friends?

c) In your opinion what was the meaning or purpose of his friends' actions (**V12** only)?

9. a) What is remarkable about Job's friends in **V13**?

b) What might Job have felt to have his friends present in that way?

c) What would these friends have sacrificed to do this?

d) What sacrifices would you need to make to comfort a troubled friend? Are you willing to do it?

10. How did the response of Job's friends differ from his wife's response **(2:9)**?

11. What are some creative ways you can comfort a friend without speaking?

12. As hard as it was to have **the job of being Job**, he did have friends who came to comfort him.

a) Share how a friend or friends comforted you during a difficult period.

b) Who needs you to be that kind of friend?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We learned that silence can be comforting. Read the verses below and comment on the benefit of silence or of using few words:

Proverbs 17:27 _____

Proverbs 17:28 _____

Ecclesiastes 3:7b _____

Ecclesiastes 6:11 _____

James 1:19 _____

2. a. Do you think it is **always** best to be silent when someone is grieving? Why or why not?

b. In **John 11** we see Jesus respond differently to two grieving sisters, Martha in **V23-26**, and Mary in **V35**. What do you learn from His example?

3. a) Write out the Suggested Memory Verse: **2 Corinthians 1:3b-4**.

b) Using this verse, form a prayer for yourself or for a friend.

