

Small Group Discussion:

Meet in Large Youth Room to watch: **NOOMA: 024 Whirlwind**

Break into small groups

Check-in: Highs/Lows? What are you looking forward to most this summer? Prayer concerns or joys?

Group Prayer

Reflect on the video as you answer the following questions:

“Job was a good man, but he was also a wealthy man. He’s got land and crops and he’s got animals and he’s got servants and he’s got a house full of kids.”

Have you ever felt like everything in your life was going right, it was all working? If so, when was the last time you felt this way?

Read Job 38: 4-7

“So we find him sitting in ashes, mourning his loss. And he’s got this broken shard of pottery and he’s scraping his skin just to try and get some relief. And his wife says to him, ‘Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!’”

Do you know someone who is sitting in the “ashes”? What do you think your response should be?

“And then Job’s friends come and they sit with him and they discuss what’s happened. And they each have their opinions about why Job is suffering like this. And so they take turns giving their answers and explanations. Because that’s what we want, isn’t it? When we suffer, we want answers and explanations. We want to know why.”

When it all falls apart, who are the people who would sit with you? What sorts of perspectives would they offer?

***Optional:* Read Job 38: 19-21**

“Why do bad things happen to good people?”

Have you been taught that if you do the right things, God will take care of you? In what ways do you agree or disagree with that now?

“And then God said to Job: Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!”

What is the difference between asking and accusing?

What do we do when we don’t get the answers we are hoping for? Would having all the answers fix things?

Read Job 39: 26

“But true wisdom, the kind we find here with Job, the kind that endures, the kind that sustains a person through suffering, that kind of wisdom knows when to speak and when to be silent.”

When should we speak and when should we be silent?

“Because your story is not over. The last word has not been spoken. And there may be way more going on here than any of us realize.”

How does suffering change our perspective?

“So may you be released from having to understand why everything happens the way that it does. May this freedom open you up to all sorts of new perspectives. And may you have the wisdom to know when to say, ‘I spoke once, but now I will say no more.’”