

TREES OF LIFE

GO FURTHER | MARCH 13 | THE TREE OF HOPE

START TALKING | ASK A QUESTION TO GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE STORY FROM THE BIBLE? WHY?
- WHAT IS YOUR LEAST FAVORITE STORY FROM THE BIBLE? WHY?

START THINKING | ASK A QUESTION TO GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- Job is likely the oldest story shared in the Scripture
- Share what you know, if anything, of Job's story
- Read Job 1:1-5. What words or phrases stand out to you?
- What do we learn about Job's character?
- God removes God's protection and incredible tragedy strikes: animals, farmhands, sheep, shepherds, camels, servants, and all his children gone.
- What is the natural human response to this much loss?
- Read Job's response in Job 1:20-22. What words or phrases stand out to you?

START SHARING | CHOOSE A QUESTION TO CREATE OPENNESS.

- Job grieves while holding on to his faith in God, even while Job's friends give very poor advice
- Read Job 14:7-12. What words or phrases stand out to you?
- How does Job compare humanity to a tree?
- This is long before Jesus; Job cannot find hope in resurrection.
- Read Isaiah 11:1-2. What words or phrases stand out to you?
- What new life is coming out of an old stump?
- Much after Job, Isaiah looks forward to Jesus' arrival, again with a tree metaphor.
- Read Job 42:7-17. What words or phrases stand out to you?
- What happens to Job at the end of the story?
- It is a different future than Job imagined, one that is new life coming out of all the pain and grief and loss that happened to him.
- There is hope for new life in our deepest losses and grief, in this life and especially in the sure and certain hope of resurrection.

START PRAYING | BE BOLD AND PRAY WITH POWER.

- Lord God, may we never be afraid to pray exactly what we are feeling, especially facing deep loss and grief. May your Holy Spirit speak and show us there is hope for new life in our deepest losses, in this life and in the sure and certain hope of resurrection in the life to come. It is in our resurrected Savior's name, Jesus, we pray, Amen.

START DOING | COMMIT TO A STEP AND LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK.

- For more on Job, check out this 5-day reading plan: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/13919-the-paradox-of-jobs-suffering>