

## YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND...NOT!

JOB 2:11-37:24

Part 2 in the series, "Where Is God When It Hurts"

The danger of a half truth is always the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_!

1. BE A FRIEND BY BEING \_\_\_\_\_  
Job 2:11-12

The best friend in the world is the friend who \_\_\_\_\_ when times are tough.

2. BE A FRIEND BY BEING \_\_\_\_\_  
Job 2:13

"It takes two years to learn to speak and sixty to learn to keep quiet." Ernest Heningway  
Proverbs 17:27-28 "*hold your tongue*"

Don't think you have to correctly answer the philosophical question of human \_\_\_\_\_.  
Job 13:5

3. BE A FRIEND BY BEING \_\_\_\_\_  
Job 8:1-6

What Job needs the most is the care and compassion of a \_\_\_\_\_.  
Job 16:1-5

### How to be a Genuine Friend:

1. Avoid simple \_\_\_\_\_ to complex problems.  
Isaiah 55:8-9
2. When in doubt, \_\_\_\_\_.  
Romans 11:33-34
3. Always err on the side of \_\_\_\_\_.  
Matthew 7:1-2; 1 Peter 3:8

# Where is GOD when it hurts?



## Reflection and Discussion for Small Groups

Read 4:7 and 5:17-27, then answer:

1.- What is Eliphaz implying about the cause of Job's suffering? How does he interpret Job's suffering in 5:17? What is his recommendation to Job to end this suffering? What does Eliphaz promise will happen to Job if he takes his advice (see 5:18-27)?

Job responds to Eliphaz by lamenting twice (6:1-13; 7:1-10) and by criticizing his false friends (6:14-30) and God (7:11-21). Read his first statement against his friends in 6:14.

2.- How is it possible, with the best of intentions, to fail to show kindness to someone desperately hurting?

Bildad clearly and simply lays out a way for Job to be restored in 8:2-7.

3.- Is this any different from Eliphaz's guidance? Is this helpful or relevant to Job?

Job summarizes his case against God in 9:22-24.

4.- What new conclusions has Job reached about God on the basis of his experience in chapters 1-2?

Zophar's advice to Job in 11:13-20

5.- Is his advice different than Eliphaz's or Bildad's? Are Zophar's claims in these verses true? Are they relevant to Job's situation?

Job in 12:13-25 offers a counterargument to his friends' insistence concerning God's justice.

6.- How does he extrapolate outward from his suffering to re-vision the way God governs the world?

In chapter 13, Job returns to his hypothetical court case against God.

7.- Read 13:16-23, What desire is growing within Job and beginning to dominate his thoughts?

This issue will recur during the debates, take a moment to summarize the theology of Job's friends. What role do grace and undeserved favor play in their understanding of one's relationship with God?

Take time to reflect on the implications of Job for your own life today. Consider what you have learned that might lead you to praise God, repent of sin, and trust in his gracious promises.

to be continued ...