

The Gospel Project for Adults, Summer 2016
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults for Session 12

Introduction: *Look at loss and grief.*

Ask, “What movie scenes come to mind when you think of loss or suffering?” Show the following clip “Telegrams of Loss” (3 minutes, 38 seconds) from the film *We Were Soldiers*: <http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/we-were-soldiers/telegrams-of-loss>

[Note: Do not show the clip if you have someone in your class who lost an immediate family member to a military engagement. Instead, show this clip, “Compassion” (2 minutes, 17 seconds), from the movie *Soul Surfer*: <http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/soul-surfer/compassion>]

Say something like this: “Not all of us have experienced intense, soul-shaking suffering. But we may. And we can learn from Job’s life, his questioning, and his faith that although we don’t find the answers to the questions we ask of God, we can find Him.”

Point 1: *Ask the right question.*

Read aloud the title of Point 1: “Job’s Dilemma: Why Do Good People Suffer?” Engage learners in discussing different answers to that question they have heard or spoken.

Then read the following quote:



Say something along the lines of this: “We are not good. We’re sinful, selfish, and saved only by grace. Instead of focusing on the unfairness of suffering, perhaps we should focus on the unfairness of God’s love and forgiveness.”

Point 2: *What does God's Word say?*

Gently point out that friends and family often give us terrible advice and 'help' in our times of suffering. (Also, we have been "miserable comforters" at times, as Job calls his friends.) Encourage learners to seek God's Word alone for truth and encouragement in suffering. You may want to share some verses on this list:

<http://www.openbible.info/topics/suffering>

Conclusion: *Share a message in song.*

Play "Thy Will" by Hillary Scott and the Scott Family (available here: <http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=1JM9ECNU>).

Summarize that God's response to all of Job's questions was this answer: "I am God." Encourage learners to seek God, not answers, in times of suffering.

Teaching Tip of the Week

Start a list in your prayer journal titled "God is..." Every time you come across a characteristic of God in Scripture, write down that particular attribute and the passage reference in your journal. Use this to remind yourself (and others) of God's power, love, and eternal nature when you or a loved one suffer.