

BEFORE WE GO

A podcast sharing years of wisdom, insights and humor from the ministry team of David & Karen Mains.

SCRIPTURE & REFLECTION QUESTIONS – WK 1

Read: Job 2:1–10

1. Skim the chapter. Describe in your own words what has happened to Job so far. What areas of Job's life were affected by his sufferings?
2. Have you had an experience where you were confused but only later realized that Satan had been attacking you? What was your initial response to the situation? Once Satan's hand was revealed, did you respond differently? How?
3. What is the advice Job's wife gives him in verse 9? Contrast this with Job's "I believe" statements in Job 13:15.
4. How did Job respond to his wife (Job 2:10)? In confusing situations, are your responses similar to Job's? Why or why not?
5. Like Job, we all experience trouble and confusion at some point. When life gets confusing, where do you put your trust? Read Proverbs 7:5–6. What do these verses have to say to you?

Read: Psalm 27

1. What is David's desire in verses 4–6? What does his example indicate about an appropriate response to times of confusion? How does this compare with your response to your own confusing situation?
2. What is the tone of verses 7–12? Do David's pleas contradict his statements of confidence in the beginning of the psalm? Explain your answer.
3. If you were writing your own version of verses 7–12, what concerns would you include?
4. David expresses strong confidence that the Lord will provide a way out of his present troubles. What "I believe" statements does David use in this psalm?
5. Which of the above "I believe" statements do you find helpful in your own confusion?

Read Romans 8:26–39

1. What is the main point of this passage?
2. In verse 32, Paul reasons that if God gave up His Son for us, He will certainly provide us with important provisions and blessings. Does this argument give you confidence that God will provide for your needs in times of confusion? How?
3. How does your present situation compare with the list in verses 38–39? Repeat these verses, inserting your own specific difficulty in the appropriate place.
4. List some of the “I believe” statements you find in Romans chapter 8. (Hint: You can make statements out of questions.)
5. Which of these statements do you believe are true for you right now?

Read Genesis 45:1–11

1. List some difficult and confusing situations Joseph faced before this time in his life. (See Genesis 37:5–36; 39: 1–23; 41:41–43.) How did Joseph respond to these challenges?
2. Joseph may not have understood God’s purpose behind all the events in his life until Genesis 45:7–8. Can you recall a situation where God’s plan seemed more apparent to you in hindsight? How does that help you deal with present areas of confusion?
3. Joseph lived faithfully even when he didn’t understand God’s purpose in allowing bad things to happen to him. What is an area of confusion in your life where you can be faithful even though you don’t understand why things are happening the way they are?
4. Back in Genesis 37:5–10, Joseph receives a promise from God in a dream. Do you think Joseph kept faith in this promise even though his life situation got worse and worse? What is a promise from Scripture you can rely on during these times of uncertainty?
5. Make Genesis 45:8 into an “I believe” statement that is appropriate for this confusing time in your life.
I believe that God _____.

Read Hebrews 11

1. Pick one of the following characters and read more about him or her.

- Noah (Genesis 5:28–9:29)
- Abraham (Genesis 12:1–7 or 17:15–22 and 21:1–7 or 22:1–19)
- Moses (Exodus 1:22–2:25 and 12:1–42)
- Rahab (Joshua 2)

Describe the confusion the person faced. What was the key to getting through the situation?

2. What can this person's life teach you about dealing with your confusion?
3. According to Hebrews 11:6, how important is faith? How can you become more faith-centered when you are confused?
4. The discussion of faith in this chapter follows directly from Hebrews 10:38–39. Think of an area of confusion in your life. In what ways might you be tempted to “shrink back”? How does this passage help you believe and keep going?
5. Who is someone you know who could be included in a modern-day Hebrews chapter 11? What can you learn from this contemporary “I believe” person?