

Growth group study - Friends aren't always helpful
Bible Reading: Job 2:11–13, Job 4:1–11 & Job 8:1–7
11/7/21 – John Malcolm

Why do parents try to influence who their children make friends with?

Can you think of examples from among your family where good friendships helped shape good decisions? (If appropriate share with the group)

A sign on the Mainfreight building read, *A friend is a person who walks in when the rest of the world walks away.*

How would you define friendship?

In the Geneva Bible's introduction to Job, written 1560 we read of Job's friends, *These friends came unto him under the pretence of consolation, and yet they tormented him more than did all his afflictions.*

How would you explain the phrase "Job's Comforters"?

Why did these friends believe Job was guilty of great sin?

Read Job 4:2, 7

What do we learn about Eliphaz's assessment of Job's predicament?

Read Job 8:2-4, 8-9

What does Bildad assert about Job, his children and God?

Why do you think he appeals to the wisdom of the ancestors?

Read Job 11:2, 5-8

What is Zophar's approach to what Job is saying?

Why does Zophar speak of wisdom having two sides and questions what Job can know of God's ways?

Read Job 32:1

Why did the friends give up on Job?

Read Job 32:5 & 36:15-16

Why was Elihu so upset?

What did Elihu mean by God "wooing" Job from the jaws of distress?

Read Job 42:7

What does this verse tell us about God, Job and his friends?

What does this mean for us when we read the views and arguments of Job's friends?

Read Job 29.4-5, Proverbs 18.24, Exodus 33:11 & John 15:13–15

What do each of these verses tell us about the friendship with God?

In the midst of his suffering what did Job long for?

What can each of us do to develop a friendship with God?

How can friendship with God help us when we are going through difficult times?

How can our friendship with God influence our friendship with others?