

Name _____

Questioning Suffering Answer Key

Before watching the video, respond to the following:

1. List three to four questions raised by the human experience of suffering.

Answers will vary, but may include:

- Why do (good) people suffer?
- Is suffering a punishment from God?
- Why does God allow suffering? / Why doesn't God prevent good people from suffering?
- Why is there suffering in the world?
- Why didn't God design a world without suffering?

During the video, answer the following questions:

2. What questions about suffering does the Book of Job explore?

- Is God just?
- Does God run the world according to justice?
- How is Job's suffering to be explained?

3. What big assumption about God do Job and the friends make?

- Everything in the world runs according to a strict principal of justice: when human action is wise and good, through God's justice, people will find success and reward. When human action is evil and foolish, through God's justice, people will find disaster and punishment.

4. What are three key elements of God's response to Job?

- After giving Job a "virtual tour" of the universe, God says it's complicated; Job doesn't have the big-picture perspective necessary to understand.
- We live in a world that is not designed to prevent suffering; instead, we are invited to trust God.
- The video explains that God's affirmation of Job "speaking rightly" confirms the reality of his struggle, affirms Job's honesty, and considers the questions directed to God as prayer.



After the video, answer the following questions:

5. Compare and contrast the assumptions (arguments, implications, conclusions) about suffering in the Book of Job with your list of questions about suffering (from question 1). Do you think the underlying assumptions in the Book of Job reflect yours? Explain.

- *Answers will vary, but most will conclude the following:* Yes, the majority, if not all, of our questions about suffering presume a strict principle of justice.

6. Evaluate the key elements of God's response to Job as an answer to your own questions about suffering. In what ways do you find God's response helpful or unhelpful?

Answers will vary, but most will reflect the following:

- Helpful: affirms the mystery; suffering is not punishment
- Unhelpful: doesn't clearly answer "why"

