

# **FAITH AT HOME: October 10, 2021**

*This resource is intended to be used in your household: around the dinner table, at bedtime, or any other time you can gather together to share and reflect.*



## **I've been meaning to ask...what do you need?**

In the midst of Job's afflictions, three of his friends promptly leave their homes and come to him. They tear their garments, weep loudly, and sit with him for seven days, saying nothing. Their response is the ministry of presence, of true solidarity, of seeing his excruciating pain and joining him there.

## **SHARE**

*Share highs and lows from the week or use one of the questions below to spark conversation with your household.*

## **READ: Job 2:11-13**

*Read the passage aloud or silently and share a word or phrase that sticks out to you.*

<sup>11</sup>Now when Job's three friends heard of all these troubles that had come upon him, each of them set out from his home—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They met together to go and console and comfort him. <sup>12</sup>When they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him, and they raised their voices and wept aloud; they tore their robes and threw dust in the air upon their heads. <sup>13</sup>They sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

## **TALK**

*This time is for reflecting on the Scripture and theme in light of our own experiences. Use the following questions/activities as a starting point.*

1. Questions that connect to Scripture:
  - a. Read chapters 1-2 of Job's story. Take note of each of the ways Job experiences trauma, hardship, and suffering. Have you experienced any of these forms of suffering (economic loss, theft, natural disaster, death of loved ones, physical ailments)?
  - b. What are the exact actions Job's three friends take? In the midst of his suffering, what do they not do?
  - c. Consider the cultural practice of rending one's clothing and scattering ashes to express lament and deep grief. What are modern-day practices that might emulate these embodied acts?
2. Questions that connect to the theme ("Where does it hurt?")
  - a. Share a memory of a time someone extended care for you. What did they do and how did it make you feel?
  - b. Share a memory of a time you tried to extend care for someone else, but didn't give them what they needed. What do you wish you could have changed about that experience?

- c. What is your love language? (The five love languages are: physical touch, words of affirmation, quality time, gifts, and acts of service.) Name a time when you have experienced this type of love and connection.
  - d. Share about a time you needed help but didn't ask for it. What do you wish you could have changed about that experience?
  - e. What emotion do you feel most often: shame, fear, or anger? When you are in one of those spaces, what helps you move through those feelings?
  - f. What's a gift (tangible or intangible) you've received that you'll never forget?
3. Talk about what things help us feel better when we are sad or invite each person in the household to share what they do when friends or family members are sad. Notice that different people might need different things (or we might need different things at different times).
  4. Write or draw cards or pictures to send to someone who might need to know they are not alone (or even send a text message or make a phone call!). Maybe a neighbor? Grandparent? (Ask a Pastor or the church office if you'd like a list of people from church to send the cards to!)

## **PRAY**

Dear God, thank you for friends that help us, even when that help is just being with us. Help us to remember to ask what others need instead of assuming we know. Amen.

## **BLESS**

*Mark the cross of Christ on the hand or forehead of one another and say the words: "Name, God made you and God loves you!" Make sure everyone in the household is included – both giving and receiving this blessing!*