

# Summer at Freedom Week 8 Study Guide

7-13-25 "Our Response to Tragedy"

## Key Question

- How do we respond when prayers seem unanswered and tragedy strikes?

## Main Points

1. **Worship in Tragedy**
  - Acknowledge God's sovereignty despite chaos (Daniel 4:34-35, 1 Chronicles 29:11).
  - Job's response: Worshiped God despite loss (Job 1:20-21).
  - Worship shifts focus from our circumstances to God's nature.
2. **Experience God's Presence**
  - God's presence offers peace, not always rescue (Isaiah 43:2, Psalm 16:11, Deuteronomy 31:6).
  - Peace surpasses understanding in trials (Philippians 4:7, Psalm 34:18).
  - Closeness to God provides grace and comfort (Hebrews 4:16, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4).
3. **Comfort Each Other**
  - Share burdens to fulfill Christ's law (Galatians 6:2).
  - Be present and normal for those grieving (Isaiah 61:1-3).
  - Community prevents isolation in pain.

## Biblical Examples

- **Job:** Lost everything but worshiped (Job 1:20-21, 2:10).
- **Noah, Joseph, Moses, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego:** Faced trials but experienced God's provision amid evil.

## Application

- **Reflect:** Is your faith strong enough to worship God when bad things happen?
- **Action:** Seek God's presence through prayer and stillness (Psalm 46:10).
- **Community:** Support others in grief by being present and sharing burdens.

## Discussion Questions

- How does Job's response to tragedy (Job 1:20-21) challenge or inspire your approach to handling personal hardships? What makes worshiping in the midst of loss difficult, and how can we overcome those challenges?
- The sermon emphasizes experiencing God's presence as a source of peace (Isaiah 43:2, Philippians 4:7). Can you share a time when you felt God's presence during a trial? How can we practically seek His presence when we're overwhelmed?
- Why is community important in times of tragedy, according to Galatians 6:2 and 2 Corinthians 1:3-4? How have you experienced or provided comfort within a community during difficult times?
- Satan challenged Job's faith, suggesting it was shallow (Job 1:10-11). How can we evaluate the strength of our own faith to ensure it withstands trials? What steps can we take to deepen our trust in God's goodness and sovereignty?