

## Job 2: 11- 13 Job's friends

### 1) Job alone on the rubbish heap – Woodcutter's Wisdom

- Bereaved of his children
- Neglected by his wife
- A wealthy man who knew comfort now sits in the ashes
- Job 7:3 'I have been allotted months of futility and nights of misery have been assigned to me'

### 2) Job's friends visit him

- Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar – They heard, they set out and they travelled to provide Job comfort.
- Three wise friends who represent the wisdom of the world
- Three kind and loyal friends who come to help Job understand
- Three friends who look to bring kindness and comfort

### 3) The friends don't recognise Job

- The pain Job is in has impacted every part of him
- The pain of Job affects his friends. They wept
- Job's suffering is so deep they cannot reach him
- Job a living corpse. Dust to dust, ashes to ashes

### 4) 7 Days of silence

- No one spoke a word to him,
- A silence that is broken eventually by Job!
- They have nothing to say!
- There is a real loneliness in suffering. It is always personal

### 5) The loneliness Job points to

- Mark 14: 32 – 42 Jesus alone in Gethsemane
- 'My God, My God why have you forsaken me'
- We will never suffer the loneliness Job suffered. Jesus is alive and he has bridged the gap of all suffering.
- There is no wisdom in the world or comfort that can compare!

## Digging Deeper

1. Ask one member of the group to download the Woodcutter's Wisdom story and read it out in the group. In what way does this help us as we explore the book of Job?
2. What has been your experience of grief and what did you find helped and what didn't?
3. Read Job 7:3 – It would seem that Job had quite a long time before the friends arrived. What has Job lost and what is the impact on him and his wife?
4. Why do the three friends agree to meet up and go together to visit Job?
5. What is it like to come alongside someone who is suffering?
6. Job's experience is unique to him. All suffering and loss is experienced in a unique way by the sufferer so how do we really come along side someone in pain?
7. What are we looking to do when we weep with those who weep?
8. Before Job speaks the friends sit with him. Is their silence good?
9. How do we grow in our ability to come along side those who are hurting?