**Job 1:20-21 (NLT)—**

20Job stood up and tore his robe in grief. Then he shaved his head and **fell to the ground to worship.** 21He said,

“I came naked from my mother’s womb,  
    and I will be naked when I leave.  
The Lord gave me what I had,  
    and the Lord has taken it away.  
**Praise the name of the Lord!**”

***What can we learn from Job’s story?***

1) God ***delights*** in those who love him and seek to follow his ways

2) Satan attacks the righteous

3) Spiritual warfare is at work in ways we can’t comprehend

4) God *allows* suffering for his purposes—and those purposes aren’t always revealed to us

***Suffering with a Right View of God***

1) God is with us

* *Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid,* ***for you are close beside me****. —Psalm 23:4 (NLT)*
* ***The Lord is close to the brokenhearted****; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed. —Psalm 34:18 (NLT)*
* *So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you.* ***He will neither fail you nor abandon you****.**—Deuteronomy 31:6 (NLT)*

2) Our suffering has purpose

* Builds endurance, character and hope (Romans 5:3-5)
* Teaches us to rely on God (2 Corinthians 1:8-10)
* God uses it to accomplish Kingdom purposes—*Christ’s suffering and sacrifice were God’s plan for our redemption*

***How can you help your child?***

1) Model suffering with a *right view of God*

2) Listen well

3) Empathize

4) Point him/her to God—God is loving, engaged and *can be trusted* with our pain

***Practical Encouragement***

1) Spend time in the Word—individually and as a family

2) Study the character and promises of God

3) Be honest with God about your struggle—read the Psalms!

4) Learn to be a *generous giver* and a *grateful receiver*

***Discussion Questions***

1) What characteristics of God give you hope, encouragement or strength?

2) Are there practices you have implemented in your life to remind yourself of God's character and love (e.g., sticky notes on your mirror, worship songs while you drive, Bible study, prayer partner, etc.)? If you don't have practices in place, what's something small you can start with?

3) Do you know someone walking with a suffering child? How can you reach out?