

**I. Questions - Job 14:1-6**

1. At the same time Job proclaims his innocence and suffering (**verse 1**)
    - A. Trouble - stress, anxiety
    - B. Trials? - see James 1
      - all men suffer
  2. People are like fading flowers (**verse 2**)
    - A. Compare with James 4:14-17
    - B. "Fleeting shadows"
      - "flowers" that perish
      - beautiful, but just for a while
    - C. Human life is short and fragile
  3. God is absolutely sovereign (**verse 3**)
    - our days and times are set by God
    - as quickly as you fix your eye on them they are gone
  4. You can't really take anything with you to judgment (**verse 3**)
  5. All have sinned and come short of God's glory (**verse 4**)
  6. The number and type of our days are predetermined by God (**verse 5**)
    - God has set limits beyond which we cannot live
  7. Don't afflict me, let me alone like a hired laborer (**verse 6**)
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. James 4 teaches that life is a vapor/ mist
    - short, fragile and uncertain (life itself)
  2. The New Testament teaches that all men are sinful -even our righteousness is as filthy rags
  3. He feels helpless - and without any means of determining his own life and outcome
    - yet, God involved Himself in the affairs of humanity when He sends messengers
    - like Moses, prophets, etc... and especially when He sent Jesus

**II. Despair - Job 14:7-12**

1. Hopes have more trees than people do (**verse 7**)
    - a tree cut down often springs back up
    - roots and sprigs come up (**verse 8-9**)
    - the scent of water makes the roots spring to life
  2. By contrast a man dies and is no more (**verse 10**)
  3. People are like a lake that dries up - it comes no more (**verse 11**)
    - a dry riverbed
  4. We live this side of the work of Jesus - without Him the end is death (**verse 12**)
    - with Jesus there is resurrection and life in the hereafter
  5. These issues make people begin to think of the next life - is there more?
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Discuss how hopeless life can be without Jesus
  2. All a lost man can see is death on the way
    - but "God will make a way"
  3. It is bitterly frustrating to have your family one day then see them all gone the next

4. We can find hope in Jesus -
  - hope to die by
  - hope to live by

### **III. Hope - Job 14:13-14**

- Rea 1. “If only” statements (**verse 13**)
  - if there were just a way - and then in the New Testament God makes a way
2. Hide me in the ground till your anger passes
- Rea -do you think from verse 13 he felt that God must be angry at him?
3. “Grave” in the Old Testament is “Sheol” - the place of the dead
- Rea -living (again) this side of Jesus we understand death better
4. In **verse 14** he ponders the nature of death - will a man live again?
  - he wants death to come and relieve him of his suffering
- Rea 5. Sometimes the reason people take their own lives is that they want the suffering to end
6. New Testament help:
  - A. We are hidden from the anger of God against sin by the work of Jesus
  - B. We are assured of another life after this one
  - C. Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us - and will come again for us (John 14)
  - D. Jesus “swallowed” death (1 Cor. 15) - He took the curse of sin
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Is it possible that in your suffering you only see part of the picture?
  2. Have you ever suffered enough to want to die?
  3. Life is full of suffering... we just don’t experience it every day - the suffering of loneliness, the suffering of pain, the suffering of depression or despair
  4. There is hope - how might you counsel someone like Job?

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