**Lesson 1: Dealing with Natural Disasters**

Luke 13:1-5 ; Romans 8:28-29

**1. What is the worst disaster (of any sort) you have personally experienced?**

 **a.) What was your response toward God in the wake of the event?**

 **b.) How has your perspective changed over time?**

**c.) What did you learn in this lesson that added to your ability to**

 **“process” such events?**

**d.) How might you react to the same event if it happened to you today?**

**e.) How might you comfort another person who was touched by a**

 **natural disaster?**

**2. What two attitudes did Job maintain during his time of questioning God?**

 **(Job 13:5)**

**a.) How is his attitude in v. 15 similar to that of those who has been willingly**

 **martyred for their faith?**

**b.) Is his attitude in v. 15 appropriate? Why or why not?**

**c.) What is the difference between asking God for answers and demanding answers**

 **from God? Which was Job doing?**

**d.) During times of hardship, does your attitude look like Job’s?**

**e.) What can we learn from Job’s attitude during his hour of trail?**

**3. Read Luke 13:1-5.**

 **a.) What was the disaster described in Luke 13:1? Was this “natural” or man-made?**

**b.) What connection did Jesus make between the deaths of the people and their**

 **sinfulness? (v. 2) What is the implied answer to His question?**

 **c.) What was the second disaster that occurred, this time in Jerusalem? (v. 4)**

 **d.) Again, what connection did Jesus make concerning the men and their deaths?**

 **(v. 4)**

 **e.) What point is Jesus making by connecting three elements: death, sin, and**

 **judgement?**

 **f.) Why, then, is His warning in verse 5 surprising? What possibility does this**

 **warning suggest regarding judgment on sin?**

**4. Read Romans 8:28-29.**

 **a.) What is the context for these two verses? (See vv. 18-23, 26.)**

 **b.) What kinds of events is Paul likely thinking of when he mentions “all things” in**

 **v. 28?**

 **c.) What is God’s role in “all things”? Does He cause them? Does He use them?**

 **d.) To whom is this promise made specifically? (v. 28)**

 **e.) What is the purpose to which we are called? (v. 29)**

 **f.) If God’s purpose is to conform us to Christ, how does Hebrew’s 5:8 suggest that**

 **suffering is part of that process?**

**5. If you feel comfortable, share a time of hardship that the Lord helped you overcome as an**

 **encouragement for the rest of the group. How did the Lord help you through it?**