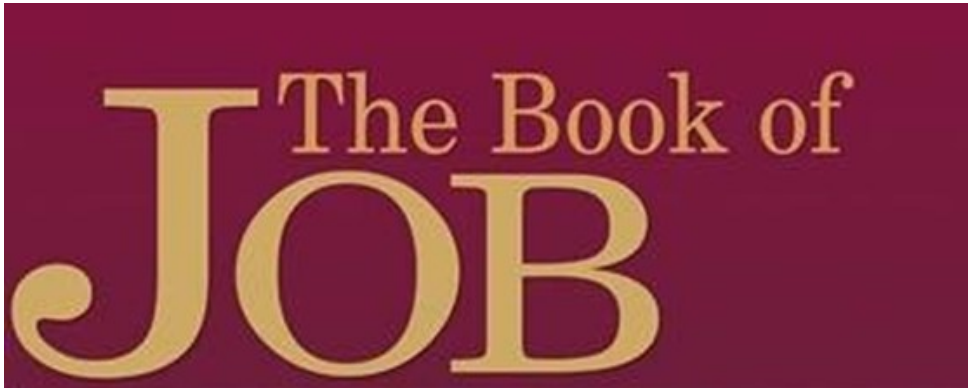


The Story of Job
Trusting God When Life Doesn't Seem to Make Sense
A Bible study series from the life of Job - Week 1
Job 1: 1-12

"When the author of Job picked up his writing utensil to write this book, he could have begun with a blunt, three-word sentence, '**Life is unfair**.' Difficult, most of us have learned to handle. But unfair?" (Charles Swindoll)

Introduction: If something in your life has happened or is happening now that makes you say, "Life isn't always fair…," welcome to Job's world. And welcome to Job's journey of learning to trust God when life doesn't seem to make sense. Everyone struggles with all kinds of problems, difficulties, disappointments, headaches, heartaches, and sorrows. As a storm in life starts to subside, another battle begins - the battle of the heart. And the questions come as we wander: "Why would the God who loves me allow me to suffer like this?" Or "Why did this happen?" Or "Why didn't this happen?" Or "Why me, why now?" In this incredible story about suffering, we will learn why we can trust God even when life doesn't seem to make sense.

Meet Job. (Job 1:1-5)

1. **Job was a godly man.** (Job 1:1)

2. Job was a family man. (Job 1:2)

3. Job was a wealthy man. (Job 1:3a)

4. Job was a very well-known man. (Job 1:3b)

5. Job was a man who was the spiritual leader of his family and whose custom was to pray for them. (Job 1:4-5)

Something is always going on in Heaven regarding what's happening on Earth (Job 1:6-12)

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Throne Control. Throne control means God is on Heaven's throne in absolute, supreme control over all the universe. Psalm 103:19 says: "The LORD has made the heavens His throne; from there He rules over everything." Remember, when your life or the world feels out of control, God is always in control, and we can fully trust Him.

The Book of JOB

When Our Faith and Questions Collide

Trusting God When Life Doesn't Seem to Make Sense
A Bible study series from the life of Job - Week 2
Job 1:13-22

From Week One: Meet Job. "In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil." (Job 1:1)

Ouch, but often true. Someone has suggested that when some Christians flee from evil like Job, they leave a forwarding address. They may not want to be stuck in sin, but they do want to stay in touch.

Four tragedies that brought great losses to Job

Tragedy #1 - The loss of oxen, donkeys, and servants.
(Job 1:13-15)

Tragedy #2 - The loss of sheep and more servants. (Job 1:16)

Notice this. The rightness or wrongness of what happens in life can only be judged by the measure of eternity, not the measure of this life. As only God can, we must see life's circumstances through the eternal picture. Only then do we trust what Abraham knew of God: "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25).

Tragedy #3 - The loss of camels and more servants. (Job 1:17)

Tragedy #4 - The loss of all his sons and daughters. (Job 1:18-19)

Three things faith won't always do when suffering

1. Choosing faith in God in the midst of suffering won't always eliminate the pain.

2. Choosing faith in God in the midst of suffering won't always eliminate our questions.

3. Choosing faith in God in the midst of suffering won't always provide a satisfying reason for the suffering.

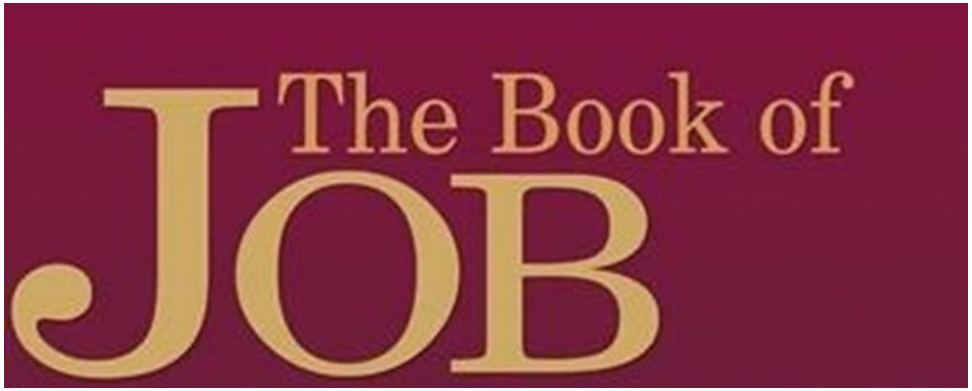
What faith in God will do when suffering. Choosing faith in God in the midst of suffering will remind us that God is in control and that we can trust, "Because God's got this, He will get me through this."

Five ways Job responded to his life losses (Job 1:20-22)

1. Job released his grief to God. (Job 1:20a)
2. Job remembered the greatness of God. (Job 1:20b)
3. Job reflected on the goodness of God. (Job 1:21)
4. Job remained guiltless before God. (Job 1:22a)
5. Job refused to assign any guilt to God. (Job 1:22b)

You're not alone in asking your questions. The book of Job is estimated to contain about 330 questions, making it the book in the Bible with the most questions. Job himself asks well over 100 questions as he struggles with his suffering and seeks God for answers.

Some people say, "I know I'm not supposed to question God …" I share that I don't question God (His character), but I never hesitate to bring my questions to Him. Wondering why something happened or didn't happen is entirely different from questioning God's goodness and faithfulness. Struggling with our questions is not the same as questioning God's sovereignty or attacking His character. Like Job, we can take our questions to God ("In all of this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.")



Satan vs. Job … Round Two

Trusting God When Life Doesn't Seem to Make Sense

A Bible study series from the life of Job - Week 3

Job 2:1-13

Introduction: In chapter one, Job never indicates that he felt God was trying to get him. In fact, Job 1:22 tells us, "In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with any wrongdoing." However, as we will see in chapter two, Job's wife and Job's three friends seemed to think it was a very strong possibility because he lost all his livestock, all his camels, 99% of his servants, and, most devastatingly, the death of his ten children. Bible teacher J. Vernon McGee somberly wrote before beginning chapter 2, "Very frankly, I would never want to go through what Job had to suffer."

Round Two - Job's suffering intensifies (Job 2:1-8)

What chapter two shows us about Satan

1. **We see Satan's persistence.** (Job 2:1-5)

Catch this: 1 Corinthians 1:31 says, "As Scripture says, "Whoever brags must brag about what the Lord has done.'"
We should always brag about the Lord. We should always make sure the hero of any story in our lives is ultimately the Lord. So, it's surprising that in the story of Job we see someone the Lord could brag about – Job. Job wasn't perfect, but he did his best to love what God loved (truth, right living, and mercy) and to hate what God hated (sin, lying, and pride).

2. **We see Satan's need for permission.** (Job 2:6)

Note this: God is always in control. Satan could not attack Job until God gave him permission. Satan does not have unrestricted power to do whatever he wants; he must get permission from God. Whatever God permits, He does so for a purpose.

3. **We see Satan's persecution.** (Job 2:7-8)

Note this: Job had lost almost everything, including the death of his children. The only thing he still had was a wife who encouraged him to end his life. Job is now sitting on an ash heap where people took their garbage. There were probably dogs at the dump fighting over any thrown-out food along with the rats. Can the Lord help someone that far down? We know He can!

(1.) Job's wife's advice. (Job 2:9)

Note this: It is sad to see that Job's wife was trying to get him to do the same thing Satan wanted him to do – curse God. We need to recognize that even people close to us can still give us wrong advice. Mrs. Job's advice was for her husband to give up his faith in God and end his life.

(2.) Job's answer to his wife's advice. (Job 2:10)

Note this: Job didn't listen to his wife's advice. Instead, he knew that in this broken world, with blessings will come some suffering. Whatever happens, by faith, trust in the Lord and praise His name.

Three things the three friends of Job did right (Job 2:11-13)

(1) The friends stopped everything they were doing to go help their suffering friend, Job. Love does inconvenience. (Job 2:11a)

(2) They sympathized with Job, comforted him, and even wept with him. (Job 2:11b)

(3) They provided the ministry of presence with Job. (Job 2:13)

The Book of JOB

Job Speaks from His Grief and Asks Why?

Trusting God When Life Doesn't Seem to Make Sense

A Bible study series from the life of Job - Week 4

Job 3:1-22

The three friends of Job did three things right

(1) The friends stopped everything they were doing to help their suffering friend, Job. Love does inconvenience. (Job 2:11a)

(2) The friends sympathized with Job, comforted him, and even wept with him. Love places others' pain in our hearts. (Job 2:11b-12)

(3) The friends provided the ministry of presence (being present) to Job for seven days and nights. Love doesn't rush. (Job 2:13)

Job's story is about more than suffering. We may think Job's story is mainly about life's losses. However, Job's primary problem was not financial, emotional, or physical; it was theological (the study of God). Job had to struggle with the fact that, in his life, God was not acting the way he thought God would and should. Ever been there?

Don't miss this: Instead of asking where God is in the midst of our pain, the book of Job asks, "Where are we in the midst of our pain? Are we trusting the Lord our Creator, even when we cannot understand our circumstances? Or are we battling fear or anger?" Our journey with Job shows us that God is always trustworthy, even when life doesn't make sense.

Section 1 - Job finally speaks, but probably not what we expected. (Job 3:1-10)

Section 2 - Job questions the meaning of life. (Job 3:11-23)

Note this: When a person is grieving from any significant loss in life, a person might say things they normally wouldn't say. Job 6:2-3: "If only my anguish could be weighed and all my misery be placed on the scales! For then it would be heavier than the sand of the sea; therefore, my words have been rash."

Section 3 - Job laments his life. (Job 3:24-26)

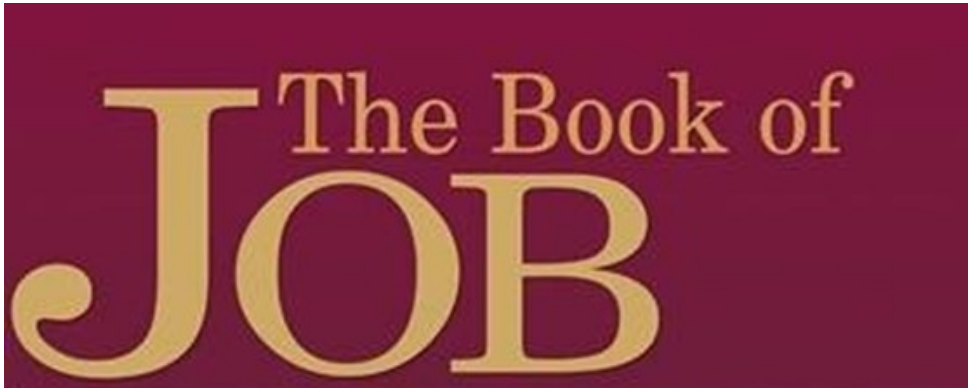
We have limited understanding. Proverbs 3:5: Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

God has limitless understanding. Isaiah 55:8-9: "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."

(1) We have limited wisdom. God has limitless wisdom.
(2) We have limited knowledge. God has perfect knowledge.
(3) We have limited perspective. God has eternal perspective.

Don't miss this: No one is immune to the darkness of depression – an ongoing feeling of sadness that changes how a person feels, thinks, and acts - not even Job. Psalm 42:11: Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise Him again - my Savior and my God!

Remember this: Job didn't know why, but he knew Who. We may not always know the whys, but we, too, know the Who and can always trust our God.



Bad Advice from Good Friends

Trusting God When Life Doesn't Seem to Make Sense

A Bible study series from the life of Job - Week 5

Job Chapters 4-5

Job's story is about more than suffering. We may think Job's story is mainly about life's losses. However, Job's primary problem was not financial (losing all his wealth), not emotional (losing his ten children), or physical (losing his health); it was theological. Job was struggling with the fact that, in his life, God was not acting the way he thought God would and should.

What people need when hurting

Section 1 - Hurting people need support, not sarcasm.
(Job 4:1-6)

Section 2 - Hurting people need love, not logic.
(Job 4:7-11)

Section 3 - Hurting people need encouragement, not examination. (Job 4:12-21)

Section 4 - Hurting people need assurances, not assumptions.
(Job 5:1-7)

Section 5 - Hurting people need affirmation, not advice.
(Job 5:8-16)

Section 6 - Hurting people need care, not clichés.
(Job 5:17-27)

Chuck Swindoll: "Somewhere in that bad sermon, accusation overran compassion. And don't think Job missed it. A person in pain doesn't feel well, but that doesn't mean there's a lack of discernment… There are those moments when reproofs are necessary, but while covered with boils? No."

Conclusion: It has been said there are two kinds of friends in the world. Some friends brighten the room when they enter, and others brighten the room when they leave. Be the kind of Christian friend who brightens the room of hurting people as you show and share God's love with your care.

The Book of JOB

Expressing the Heaviness of Our Hurt - Part 1

Trusting God When Life Doesn't Seem to Make Sense

A Bible study series from the life of Job - Week 6

Job Chapters 6-7

Are you okay? "It's okay not to be okay, but it's not okay to stay that way" (Christian author Perry Noble). It was okay for Job to feel frustrated and despair and to express to God the heaviness of his hurt (Job 6:2). It was not okay for Job to remain that way, and before the end of his story, we will see him move from a tormented life to a doubly blessed life (Job 42:10).

Section 1 - Job says his raw pain led to his rash words.
(Job 6:1-7)

Remember this: Job's story is about more than a person in the Bible who suffered greatly. We may think Job's story is mainly about dealing with life's losses. However, Job's primary struggle was not financial (losing all his wealth), not emotional (losing his ten children), not physical (losing his health); it was theological. Job was struggling with the fact that, in his life, God was not acting the way he thought God would and should.

Choose to believe what God says. When we go through a tough time, we should always choose to believe what God says rather than how we feel. God says, "He is our Helper." Our feelings may say, "God seems to be shooting arrows at me." Always choose to believe what God says.

Section 2 - Job goes from discouragement to despair.
(Job 6:8-10)

The struggle between the head and heart. Job returns to his theme from chapter 3, where he lamented the day of his birth and believed he would have been better off never having been born. This shows how grief or overwhelming stress can distort our thinking and outlook. In Job's HEAD, he knew God was all-knowing and never made mistakes, including in bringing him into this world. Therefore, if God brought Job into this world, it was for a good purpose. However, in Job's HEART, his circumstances caused him to struggle with discouragement and despair. The Psalmist said in Psalm 42:11: (Heart) "Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? (Head) I will put my hope in God! I will praise Him again, my Savior and my God!"

Section 3 - Job goes from despair to hopelessness.
(Job 6:11-13)

Job knew the feeling of hopelessness. Job felt he lacked the strength to fight his despair, and God seemed silent. Sensing no inner strength to bounce back from his losses, no support from his wife and friends, and confusion about whether God was for him or against him left him feeling as if he had no hope. That hopelessness would change, but for a season, he struggled with it. Remember: don't give up hope because God isn't giving up on you.

Section 4 - Job criticizes his friend and defends himself.
(Job 6:14-23)

Section 5 - Job offers to be silent if his friends have a fault to show him. (Job 6:24-30)

The Book of JOB

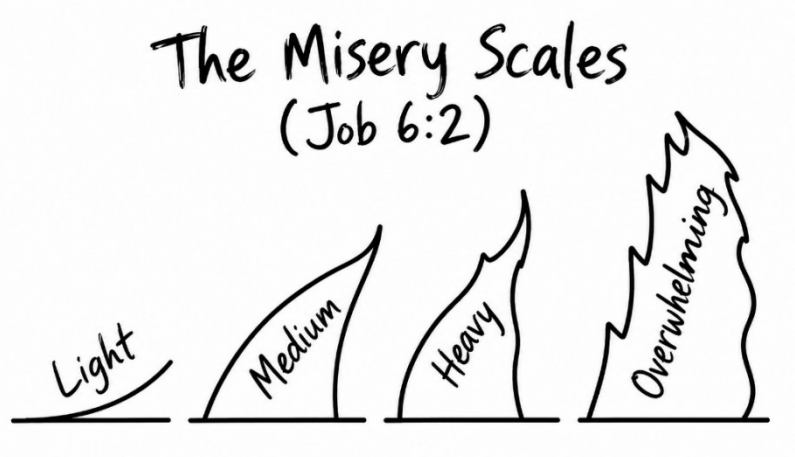
Expressing the Heaviness of Our Hurt - Part 2

Trusting God When Life Doesn't Seem to Make Sense

A Bible study series from the life of Job - Week 7

Job Chapter 7

"If only my anguish could be weighed and all my misery be placed on the scales!"



Are you okay? "It's okay not to be okay, but it's not okay to stay that way." It was okay for Job to feel frustrated and despair and to express to God the heaviness of his hurt. It was not okay for Job to remain that way, and by the end of his story, we will see him move from a tormented life to a doubly blessed life.

Keep this in mind. Job's story is about more than a Bible figure who suffered greatly. We may think Job's story is mainly about dealing with life's losses, and that is part of his story.

However, Job's primary struggle was not financial (losing all his wealth), emotional (losing his ten children), or physical (losing his health); it was theological. Job was struggling with the fact that, in his life, God was not acting the way he thought God would and should.

Section 1 - The comfortless suffering of Job. (Job 7:1-5)

Our feelings are not always right. Our feelings are real, but our feelings are not always right. In chapters 6 and 7, Job expresses how he feels, but some of his feelings are definitely not right. For example, Job 7:20: "If I have sinned, what have I done to You, You who see everything we do? Why have You made me Your target? Have I become a burden to You?" We can always acknowledge that our feelings are real, but we should always prayerfully evaluate whether they are right (Jeremiah 17:9).

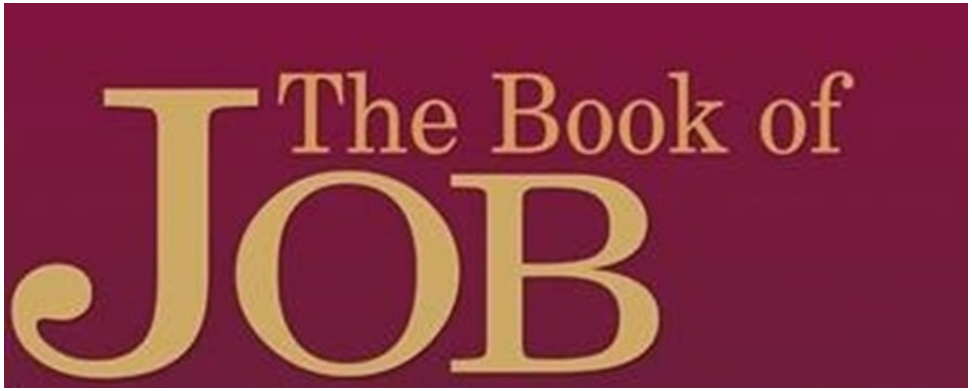
Section 2 - Job mourns life's seeming futility. (Job 7:6-10)

A perspective time-out. According to Job 42:12-17, the Lord blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first. He received twice his original possessions. He had seven new sons and three new daughters again. Job lived another 140 years AFTER his trials ended. Isn't it wonderful that Job didn't give up 140 years too soon? Keep praying and trusting, for you never know how close you are to God's double blessing in the next season of your life.

Section 3 - Job complains to God. (Job 7:11-16)

Section 4 - When God seems uncaring. (Job 7:17-21)

Conclusion: I appreciate the words of Bible teacher Chuck Swindoll, "There are times when God's ways seem to only make us more confused. Don't expect to understand everything that happens when it occurs… God says, 'Rely on Me in the mystery.' God never promised He would inform us ahead of time about His plans; He only promised He has a plan. Ultimately, it is always for our good and His glory. We don't always know it – but He does."



Bildad's Bad Theology About Suffering

Trusting God When Life Doesn't Seem to Make Sense

A Bible study series from the life of Job - Week 8

Job Chapter 8

Common Forms of Bad Theology about Suffering

Example #1 - The Retribution Principle (Karma-style Theology). The false belief that every specific instance of suffering is a direct punishment for a specific personal sin. The Book of Job and Jesus' account of the man born blind (John 9:3) explicitly dismantle this belief.

Example #2 - The Prosperity Gospel ("Name It and Claim It"). The flawed idea that a little more faith, prayer, or financial giving can guarantee health, wealth, and exemption from pain. This false belief holds that a person remains unhealed because they lack faith or have unconfessed sin. Otherwise, they would be healed.

Example #3 - Reductionistic Lesson Learning. A term describing the belief that every life event occurs exclusively to teach the believer a specific lesson. It is "reducing" every tear or trauma to a classroom correction tool from God. God can use difficulties and suffering to teach us spiritual lessons and shape our character (James 1:2-4; Hebrews 12:5-6). However, if not careful, we can start to see God as a strict heavenly father who abandons his child and says, "I'll come back once you learn your lesson." Nothing could be further from Scripture.

Section 1 - Bildad's bad doctrine (Job 8:1-7)

*** A normal question that revealed a wrong belief**. (John 9:1-3)

* **Can unborn babies sin, and do they go to Heaven if they die?** Unborn babies lack the moral awareness to choose between right and wrong. Therefore, they are considered innocent of willful sin. Under the theological view of the age of accountability, most theologians believe that God does not hold unborn children or young children accountable for judgment until they reach an age of moral understanding. Passages such as 2 Samuel 12:23 and Matthew 19:14 lead most Christian scholars to conclude that God receives unborn babies and young children into Heaven through His grace and mercy.

Section 2 - Bildad tells Job he can find present help from the past ancestors. (Job 8:8-10)

Section 3 - Bildad applies his common-sense wisdom to Job's situation. (Job 8:11-18)

Section 4 - God's promise of blessings to the blameless. (Job 8:19-22)

Conclusion: After Bildad's accusations and advice to Job, he decides to conclude his speech on a positive note. First, God will DELIVER you (vv.19-20); second, God will DELIGHT you (v.21); and third, God will DEFEND you (v.22). That was true for Job and remains true for us today as we follow God.

The Book of JOB

Believing in God's Justice During Difficult Times

Trusting God When Life Doesn't Seem to Make Sense

A Bible study series from the life of Job - Week 9

Job Chapter 9

Introduction: Believing in God's justice during difficult times is not about denying our pain or pretending everything is okay. It is about anchoring our hearts in the truth that God remains trustworthy, even when life hurts. It is trusting God by faith, even when life doesn't seem to make sense. In our study of Job's life, we meet a man who experienced deep losses and wrestled with questions about God's fairness.

Keep this in mind. Job's story is about more than a person in the Bible who suffered greatly. We may think Job's story is mainly about dealing with life's losses, but that's only part of it. Job's primary struggle was not financial (losing all his wealth), emotional (losing his ten children), or physical (losing his health); it was theological. Job struggled with the fact that, in his life, God was not acting as he thought God would or should. Have you been there?

Note this from Job 42:3: "You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?' Surely, I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know." Job said several rash things out of his hurt, pain, and confusion. He believed God was good. Yet in his season of suffering, he struggled to see God's goodness and justice.

Section 1 - Job knows God can do anything, yet He seems to do nothing about his suffering. (Job 9:1-13)

Section 2 - Job wonders how a mere man can answer a mighty God. (Job 9:14-20)

Section 3 - Job feels that God is silent, distant, and even uncaring toward those who suffer like Job.
(Job 9:21-24)

Remember this: Everything we know about Job's situation from Chapters 1 and 2 was completely unknown to Job at this time. He describes the world and God as he sees them.

A.W. Tozer wrote, "The most important thing about you is what comes into your mind when you think of God." Job's conception of God became, quite understandably, twisted by his circumstances. God had not changed, but Job's perspective had.

Section 4 - Job knew he was blameless (not sinless), but it felt as though God was declaring Job guilty.
(Job 9:25-31)

Note this: Job's circumstances told him that sometimes God allows the innocent to suffer. We who are privileged to see Job's drama from the divine perspective know that Job was innocent and that God had a cause beyond Job's present view, one that would eventually be revealed to him (Job 42:12-17). God saw the big picture of Job's life as He knows the big picture of your life. Trust that God knows what He is doing.

Section 5 – Job longs for someone to help him.
(Job 9:32-35)

The Book of JOB

Believing in God's Justice During Difficult Times – Part 2

Trusting God When Life Doesn't Seem to Make Sense

A Bible study series from the life of Job - Week 10

Job Chapter 10

Introduction: Believing in God's justice (fairness) during difficult times is not about denying our pain or pretending everything is okay. It is about anchoring our hearts in the truth that God remains trustworthy, even when life hurts. It is trusting God by faith, even when life doesn't seem to make sense.

Section 1 - What Job wants to say to God. (Job 10:1-7)

How to deal with bitterness

1. When we're struggling with anger, the first thing and best thing we can do is go to God immediately. Don't give in to the temptation to keep dwelling on what someone did to you. Instead, go to God right away and ask for His help. Believers are commanded to live a healthy spiritual life in Ephesians 4:31: "Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander … Sometimes we hold on to bitterness, convinced that somehow, it's hurting the other person. But here's the truth: Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and expecting it will hurt the other person.

2. Bitterness is a root that produces bad fruit like anger, resentment, distrust, etc. Unless we address the root, the same unhealthy patterns will show up in different areas of our lives. When the bitter thought resurfaces, don't nurse it, replay it, or analyze, because that only fuels anger. Stop, take a breath, and say, "God, I release this to you again."

3. Forgiveness is a decision, not a feeling. It's not about forgetting. We've heard the phrase "forgive and forget," but let's be real-our brains don't work that way. If someone betrayed you, hurt you, or let you down, you'll remember it. Forgiveness isn't amnesia. It's obedience. The evil one wants us to stay stuck in a cycle of bitterness, replaying offenses until we're trapped in this sin. Instead, stop, take a breath, and say, "God, I release this to you again."

Section 2 - Job would ask, "I am Your creation: Why do You afflict me?" (Job 10:8-12)

Section 3 - Job's agonizing question: "Why, God?" (Job 10:13 -17)

4. Even in his anguish, Job NEVER STOPS TALKING TO GOD. His complaining IS part of his praying. Even in his anguish, Job NEVER STOPS TALKING TO GOD. His complaining IS part of his praying. This shows us that God doesn't need us to be polished when we pray - just honest. Job never ran away from God or abandoned Him. Waiting on God's timing can be challenging, but it can also be so rewarding.

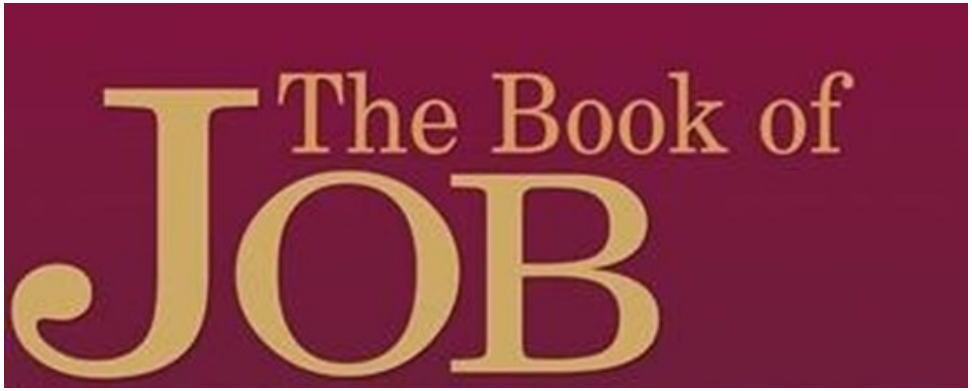
Today's Lessons from Job Chapter 10

Lesson 1 - Faith can coexist with confusion: Job pours out his anguish and questions. He directs his grief to God rather than turning away from Him.

Lesson 2 - Honest communication is part of prayer: God does not require polished or cheerful speech.
God invites us to bring our personal pain, honest doubts, and hard questions to Him in prayer.

Lesson 3 - Guard against false conclusions: Job wrestles with the false assumption that God's silence proves His anger. Don't turn an unrevealed reason into an unfair accusation against God.

Lesson 4 - Trust is not the absence of questions. It means bringing our questions to God, especially when life is painful and confusing.



When Zophar Goes Too Far

Trusting God When Life Doesn't Seem to Make Sense

A Bible study series from the life of Job - Week 11

Job Chapter 11

Introduction: Job's three "friends" serve as an example (1 Corinthians 10:11) of how people often view suffering from a human perspective that overlooks God's bigger and better plans (Isaiah 55:8-9). While it is true that those who do wrong often suffer (Galatians 6:7), God also permits suffering for reasons we may not understand at the time (James 5:11). Beware of assuming someone's suffering always stems from wrongdoing.

Section 1 - Things are bad, but God is still willing to forgive you. (Job 11:1-6)

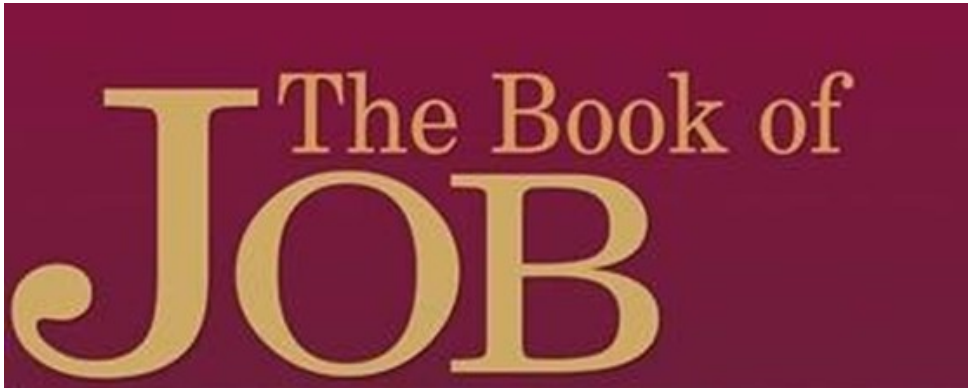
Note this: Zophar mistakenly assumes God is on his side. Zophar thinks he is right about Job being wrong. He does not consider that he may be wrong. President Abraham Lincoln: "Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right." God is always right in everything He does. Psalm 145:17: "The LORD is righteous in all His ways and faithful in all He does."

Section 2 - Zophar decides to teach Job about God. (Job 11:7-12)

Section 3 - Zophar gives Job more advice. (Job11:13-19)

Section 4 - Zophar warns Job what will happen if he doesn't repent. (Job 11:20).

Conclusion: An old Chinese proverb says, "Though conversing face to face, their hearts have a thousand miles between them." Job's friends were physically present, but they weren't there for him emotionally or spiritually. They offered Job no comfort, only condemnation. See as God sees, feel as God feels, and do as God does.



Problems Can be Great, but God is Greater

Trusting God When Life Doesn't Seem to Make Sense

A Bible study series from the life of Job - Week 12

Job Chapter 12

Introduction: Job's words in chapters 12-14 respond to Zophar's attacks on Job's integrity before God. Job's three friends were certain that Job must have sinned to deserve such divine punishment. They assumed his suffering was due to his "secret sinning" and his failure to confess it to God. Yet, Job continued to maintain his innocence. At the same time, Job's words in chapter 12 affirm God's greatness.

In the midst of his great problems, Job still affirms the greatness of God

Section 1 - Job's rebuke. (Job 12:1-6)

Don't miss this: A distorted view of God is a belief about His character that conflicts with what the Bible says. Struggling to trust God is not the same as not trusting Him. Fear, doubt, disappointment, or grief does not mean you don't trust God. The Psalms are full of cries of confusion and sorrow, addressed directly to God. Yet David wrote in Psalm 56:3, "When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You."

Section 2 - Job's ridicule. (Job 12:7-12)

Note: Job becomes more sarcastic when he tells his prideful friends that they can gain godly wisdom from animals, from anyone, and from the aged. It is evident to everyone (except his wife and three friends) that Job's situation is not outside God's will but is part of it.

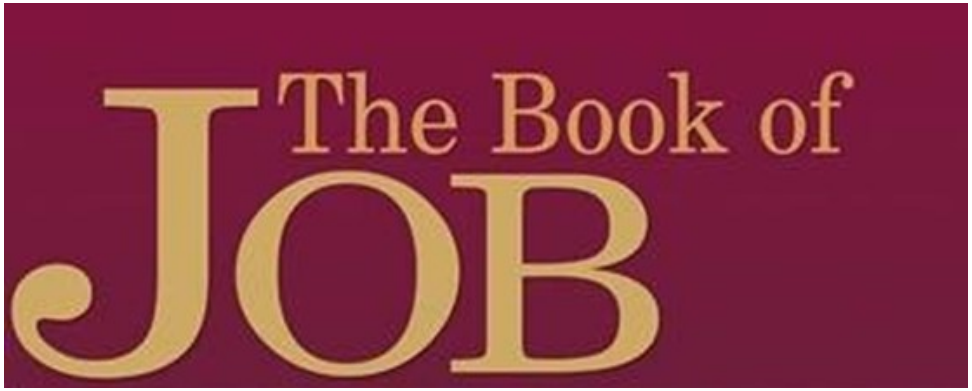
Section 3 - Job's reverence. (Job 12:13-25)

Note: Job was able to vent in previous verses. But he immediately returns to God because he knows the only hope in life is found in God. He mentions three attributes of God that he knows are true and that show why we can trust in Him no matter what.

(1) God is supreme. (Job 12:13)

(2) God is strong. (Job 12:14-15)

(3) God is sovereign. (Job 12:16-25)



Trusting God in Times of Trouble

Trusting God When Life Doesn't Seem to Make Sense

A Bible study series from the life of Job - Week 13

Job Chapter 13

Introduction: Job's words in chapters 12-14 are a response to Zophar's attacks on Job's integrity and innocence before God. Job's three "friends" were certain that Job must have sinned in a major way to deserve the divine punishment he experienced. They assumed his suffering was due to "secret sinning" and his failure to confess it to God. Even though Job suffered emotionally, physically, mentally, and even spiritually, he continued to trust God in times of trouble (Job 13:15).

Section 1 - Job challenges his comforters-turned-critics.
(Job 13:1-12)

➔ **Note this**: Don't miss this, because we've all struggled with it. Job wants God to make sense of his suffering. God didn't explain everything because Job's human mind couldn't comprehend it. Instead, God asked Job a long series of questions about the creation and management of the universe. God asked whether Job was present at the creation of the earth, whether he controls the sea's boundaries, or how the cosmos works (Job chapters 38-41).

In other words, it reminds Job and us, "God is God, and we are not." He possesses absolute power, wisdom, and control over everything, making Him trustworthy even when we don't understand everything (Job 13:15).

Section 2 - Job's confidence in God. (Job 13:13-19)

➔ **Note this**: This statement reflects the attitude and outlook that will carry Job through his past and present crises. He still doesn't understand his situation and feels that God is silent in the face of his suffering. At the same time, he can still say: "Yet will I trust Him."

Section 3 - Job goes from talking to his friends to talking to God.
(Job 13:20-28)

➔ **Note this**: In chapter 13, we again see human suffering trying to understand the ways of Divine Sovereignty. Job has lost his wealth, his children, and his health, while his wife and three friends blame him for unconfessed secret sins. Instead of giving up on God, Job clings to God and trusts Him. Bringing your situation to God is an act of engaging with God, not a rejection of God. Walking away from God would mean giving up on God, and Job refused to do that. He believed God was fair enough to handle his grief, questions, and anger, and that God's character was just enough to make God fully trustworthy in times of trouble. Still true today.