

# Job

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## **Bible Study at a Glance:**

This study is intended to expose participants to the book of Job. It explores a few verses with reflection questions on each.

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(Explain to the Group) Let the group know this bible study is just to explore a sampling of verses from the book of Job in order to give everyone a sense of the content of the book. The general summary of Job is that God allows him to experience suffering though he was a righteous man, but then rewards him in the end for his faithfulness.

(Explain to the Group) = You don't have to read this word for word, but this is the general idea of what to explain before moving on.

- **Q: These are questions to ask the whole group**
  - *A: Hopefully the group arrives at most of the answers on their own, but if they don't, redirect the discussion towards these answers, and be sure to tell the group the answers if no one quite got it.*

CCC/Verses and quotes to read out loud are in boxes.

**Job 1:12:** *The Lord said to the satan, "Very well, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on him." So the satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.*

- **Q: The context of this verse is that Satan tells God that Job is faithful only because he is rich and does not suffer. Why would God allow Satan to bring suffering on Job?**
  - *A: This leads to the bigger question of why God allows suffering or evil at all. In this context, from a pastoral perspective, we should accept that there is a mystery behind it we may not fully understand, but that nonetheless, we can place our trust and hope in a loving God, as Job does and is rewarded for in the end. One thing we can say is that God is able to bring good from evil.*

**Job 3:3:** *Perish the day on which I was born, the night when they said, "The child is a boy!"*

- **Q: Is it OK for Job to say this? If he's a righteous man, should he say something like I wish I was never born? Is that offensive to God?**
  - *A: It is OK and is a model for us of being honest with God with our feelings. God wants us to be real with him. He already knows how we feel, it's not a surprise to him. As long*

as we maintain an attitude of humility, it is healthy for us to express to God what is really in our hearts.

**Job 1:21:** He said, "Naked I came forth from my mother's womb, and naked shall I go back there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord!"

- **Q: This is one of the more famous verses in the book of Job. What are some insights or lessons you can draw from what Job is saying here?**
  - *A: First, he acknowledges that all that he has was given as a gift from God to him. It is God's prerogative if he chooses to give or to take away. Additionally, he acknowledges that whatever the case, he can't take any of this life's gifts with him when he dies. But perhaps more importantly, he models that despite suffering and challenges, and not understanding why God might be doing or not doing something, he blesses the name of the Lord nonetheless.*
- **Q: Have you ever blessed the name of the Lord, i.e., praised him or offered him thanks, despite a hardship in your life? In particular, despite not understanding why he is allowing some bad thing in your life? How did that work out for you?**

**Job 38:4** Where were you when I founded the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.

- **Q: This is the part of the book of Job where God begins to respond to Job's complaints about why he was being made to suffer. Why do you think God would answer this way? What is he trying to communicate?**
  - *A: He is trying to tell us to remember that we are only creatures, and that he is God. We will never be able to fully understand everything about God. What is needed is trust and love. We are in no position to hold God to account. No one can do that. Although something may appear to us as unfairly arbitrary by God, by faith we nonetheless trust in his goodness.*

**Job 42: 1-6:** Then Job answered the Lord and said: <sup>2</sup> I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be hindered. <sup>3</sup> "Who is this who obscures counsel with ignorance?" I have spoken but did not understand; things too marvelous for me, which I did not know. <sup>4</sup> "Listen, and I will speak; I will question you,

*and you tell me the answers.”<sup>5</sup> By hearsay I had heard of you, but now my eye has seen you.<sup>6</sup> Therefore I disown what I have said, and repent in dust and ashes.*

- **Q: What lessons can we draw from Job’s response to God? How can we do the same in our own lives?**
  - *A: Job essentially humbles himself before God and repents of trying to hold him to account. A lesson for all of us is to always maintain an attitude of humility and not entitlement with God, especially in times of suffering.*