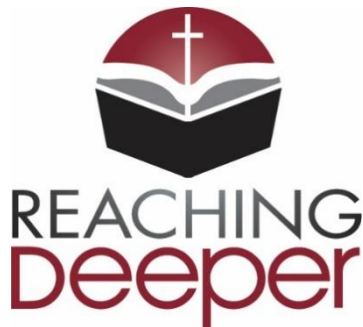




Shall we receive  
good from God,  
and shall we  
not receive evil?  
*[Job 2:10]*

## Seven Week Study through Job

Read one chapter of Job a day, six days a week, for seven weeks. This REACHING DEEPER resource contains a chapter overview, questions for consideration, and space for notes and takeaways. Follow along with the whole congregation, or go at your own pace. At the end of this study, you will have read an entire book of the Bible, and you'll have new insights into what it means to suffer by grace, in light of the love of Jesus.



# Week 1 | Heavenly Discourse, Hellish Outcome

*Scripture focus: Job 1:1-12, 2:1-6; John 19:1-11*

**JOB 1** introduces us to a man who appears to be the best person alive. Holy, thoughtful, wise, kind. We also get to overhear a conversation in heaven between God and Satan, which results in a divine wager. *Why does Job believe in God?* As Job faces his initial hardship, we are invited to consider the same question: Why do we believe in God?

1) *Why do you think God brought up Job's name to Satan?*

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2) *Why do you believe in God?*

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3) *How would you react if you experienced what Job did?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 2** showcases a follow-up conversation between God and Satan. Apparently, the first wave of suffering was not enough really to break Job. God allows further pain, and Job still refuses to waver in his trust toward God. Deeply provoking, this chapter forces us to wrestle: *how much could you handle?*

4) *What have been some of the hardest moments of your life?*

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5) *How do you think you would have responded in Job's situation?*

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6) *Job's friends sit with him in silence. Why is presence and silence important?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 3** In this chapter, Job curses the day he was born. Instead of listening to his wife, and cursing God, he instead wishes he had never even been born. Job's suffering is evident, poetically painful, and readers are left feeling just as sad as Job himself.

7) *Suffering makes Job question his existence. Why do you think this happens?*

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8) *Is death better than life? Why or why not?*

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9) *Re-read Job 3:26. What can we do in moments like these?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 4** Job's first friend speaks. He lists Job's integrity, but then says, "who that was innocent ever perished?" Eliphaz tries to tell Job he has done wrong; that's the only logical explanation.

10) *Re-read Job 4:3-4. What does this say about Job's character?*

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11) *Why do you think humans first look to themselves for blame?*

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12) *Re-read Job 4:17. How would you answer these questions? Why?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 5** Eliphaz doesn't come right out and say it, but he implies that Job has some explaining to do, and if he just confesses, God will be gracious. Will Job hearken to his wisdom?

13) *Does Eliphaz' response seem biblical? Why or why not?*

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14) *Knowing the back story, does his critique of his friend seem fair?*

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15) *Re-read Job 5:20-26. Eliphaz makes promises he can't keep. What promises can we keep with people who are suffering?*

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**Job 6** Job further describes his anguish and calls out his friend for speaking such unhelpful words, although he'd be willing to hear truth. "Do you think that you can reprove words, when the speech of a despairing man is wind?" Job is empty, and he feels his friends are draining him even more.

16) Does Job see Satan or God as the source of his pain? Why is this important?

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17) Re-read Job 6:14-15. How is Job impacted by his friend's response?

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18) What do you think Job needs to hear? Why?

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## Week 2 | Living by Faith, Suffering by Grace

*Scripture focus: Job 1:13-22, 2:7-10; John 9:1-7*

**JOB 7** Job expresses his hopelessness in this chapter with these words, “I loathe my life... Why have I become a burden to you?” Even with a strong faith, times of suffering can steal all joy and hope, and it can seem, as with Job, like God is against us.

1) *Reflect on the curse in Genesis 3:14-19. How does this chapter amplify it?*

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2) *Re-read Job 7:16-18. How would you answer Job’s question?*

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3) *Should we be able to avoid suffering as Christians? Why or why not?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 8** Job’s second friend, Bildad, talks about God’s justice, and how God will uphold those in the right and destroy those in the wrong. He urges Job to repent. “There’s better days ahead,” he reasons, as long as you do what’s right.

4) *Do you think “There’s better days ahead” helps someone who’s hurting? Why or why not?*

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5) *Re-read Job 8:3. What does justice mean? How would you answer the question?*

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6) *What do you think a promise of justice gives to people in pain? What can't it give?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 9** Job answers his friend by asking who can contend with God. Humans cannot conceive of his power or movement. Even if he does right, Job said he is unable still to make a valid answer to God.

7) *When have you wondered, "God, what are you doing?"*

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8) *Re-read Job 9:24. If God is not in control, who is? If God is in control, how do we face disaster?*

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9) *Job said he can't just forget his pain (v.27). Why can't we just put it out of mind?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 10** This chapter is a prayer to God, for clarity on why God could bring so much pain into his life. As Christians, we look to the cross, and we see that there is always a purpose to the pain in Jesus. But *what about those times when we can't see what on earth God's purpose could be??*

10) Read Romans 8:28. How has God used suffering for the good in your life?

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11) If you could ask God any question, what would it be? Why?

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12) Re-read Job 10:20-22. Why does everything feel dark when we suffer?

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Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses

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**JOB 11** Zophar now replies, hostile from the beginning. He pulls no punches for the suffering man, basically saying “You deserve worse.” He claims, “What can you know about God?” while ironically speaking on his behalf. But he’s right about this: a fool will get wise when a donkey gives birth to a man.

13) How would you feel if one of your family members talked to you like this?

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14) Re-read v.7. How would you respond?

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15) Re-read v.16. Do you think it’s possible to forget misery? Why or why not?

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Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses

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**Job 12** Job is offended by this latest speech. “Wisdom will die with you,” he jests, telling them that their view is too shallow. But how can we get our feet on the deeper ground of pain and suffering?

*16) Do you think God is accessible to all? Why or why not?*

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*17) Re-read v.11. How do you test words?*

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*18) Where might you need more wisdom and understanding?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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## Week 3 | What's Appropriate to Say?

*Scripture focus: Job 2:11-13, Job 32, Mark 6:1-6*

**JOB 13** As he continues to talk, Job declares he wishes to talk to God (he will get his chance!), and with a firm faith speaks out, "Though he slay me, I will hope in him!"

*1) Do you think you can actually argue with God? Why or why not?*

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*2) What would it take for you to give up on God? Why is that?*

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*3) Re-read v.23. Pray this prayer, seeking from God to know how to turn from sin.*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 14** There is one universal human experience: death. Job mourns his life by reflecting on death. What is the point of all the pain, he might say, if death will come anyway? Since he continues arguing with his friends, we can assume Job still finds immense meaning to the life he lives.

*4) How does society talk about and deal with death? What does this say about the worldly view of death and suffering?*

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5) *Why is it important for Christians to have something to say about death?*

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6) *Re-read Job 14:20-22, and then Romans 12:14-17. How do these fit together?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 15** Eliphaz responds for a second time, not nearly as nice. He accuses Job of not fearing God, of harboring evil, of deserving everything that has happened to him, of “conceiving trouble and giving birth to evil.”

7) *Re-read v.2. When have your words “fallen on deaf ears”?*

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8) *Eliphaz is right with some of his words, but wrong to apply them to Job. How can we be right and wrong at the same time? Has this happened to you?*

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9) *“Satan” literally means accuser or adversary. How can we keep ourselves from becoming Satan to people?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 16** “Miserable comforters are you all,” Job begins his response. He started with friends, who have now come against him, bringing judgment rather than grace. His pain increases, whether he talks, listens, or remains silent.

10) *Re-read Job 16:4-5. What choice do we have with our words? What do you usually choose?*

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11) *When have you felt like God has worn you out (v.7)?*

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12) *Jesus is our Advocate in heaven (v.19). How can you rely on Him, no matter what other people think or say about you?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 17** Job continues in his despair, wondering “Where is my hope?” We’ll hear his eternal hope in chapter 19, and for now we see how his body is like a shadow, and his plans are broken off.

13) *What things can break a person’s spirit? How can we find healing?*

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14) *When have your plans been broken off? What did you do?*

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15) *Why do you think hope is so important to humans?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**Job 18** While not as accusing as Eliphaz, Bildad clearly lets Job know that he believes he is babbling on in wickedness. "These are the kinds of things that happen to bad people, so...." Is Job a bad person? Are these things right?

16) *Re-read v.3. How would you answer Bildad's questions?*

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17) *Recall, Job is suffering because God is proving the power of faith to Satan. What does Bildad believe is the reason for Job's pain?*

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18) *Re-read v.21. Where is the place of those who don't know God?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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## Week 4 | Were You There?

*Scripture focus: Job 38, John 8:48-59*

**JOB 19** One of the most important chapters of the book, Job shares his hope in the resurrection. While he is depressed and extremely desperate, Job never wavers in his faith toward God.

*1) Should we make someone's disgrace an argument against them? Why or why not?*

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*2) Job finds no one who will be there for him in his pain. Why is grief so lonely?*

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*3) How does the promise of Resurrection and Restoration keep us going?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 20** Zophar doesn't speak a word directly against Job, but he does articulate what will eventually come to all who are evil, who do not look to God for their hope. While these words may hold true, do they apply to his friend Job?

*4) Re-read v.2. When have you spoken too quickly?*

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*5) Do you agree with what he says will happen to wicked people? Why or why not?*

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6) Re-read v.20. Why is it important for us to find value in “our daily bread”?

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 21** Job points out the obvious to Zophar: wicked people do prosper on earth. And what do they care if no one remembers them, or their children suffer- they’re wicked, right? Their answers aren’t helping him.

7) Re-read v.4. Job is not complaining. If so, what is he trying to do with his words?

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8) Have you seen bad people get good things? How does this impact your faith?

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9) What comfort have Job’s friends given him? What might he need to hear?

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 22** Eliphaz pulls no punches. Maybe he is angry with Job for saying he isn’t wise, but he continues to accuse: “Isn’t your evil abundant?” We shall find out at the end who is in the right; for now we continue to listen to the debate.

10) How can we know if someone is truly evil?

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11) *Do you ever feel justified judging someone, because they judge you first? Is this right or wrong? Why? What might God want us to do?*

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12) *“God saves the lowly” (v.29). How can you be humble today?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 23** Job asks to meet with God, to plead his case before him. He shall get his chance, but for now we hear how Job wants to meet with God and has continued to treasure God’s word and God’s presence.

13) *Can God be found? If so, where? List as many as you can think of.*

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14) *Read Psalm 139. How do Job’s words compare with the Psalm?*

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15) *“What he desires, he does” (v.13) is basically the same as “Your will be done.” Why is this prayer so central to the life of Christians? Make it your prayer today.*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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## Week 5 | Making Sense Doesn't Matter

*Scripture focus: Job 42:1-6, John 1:1-5, 10-14*

**JOB 25** The shortest chapter in the book, Bildad is not wrong in what he speaks. But he applies it to the wrong person. He tries to help Job see himself in light of God's glory, instead of God's grace.

1) *How would you answer the questions in v.4?*

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2) *Read Romans 1:16-23. How does this address what Bildad talks about?*

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3) *Where do you need God to make peace in your life?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 26** Job sarcastically tells his friends they have been no help to him. He shows that he, too, can talk about God's majesty, and asks them to question how they can know what God has to say.

4) *Re-read v.4. Where do you turn and to what do you look for wisdom?*

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5) *What part of God's creation and power is most amazing to you?*

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6) *“How small a whisper do we hear” (v.14). What do you think God is whispering to you these days?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 27** Job begins his final defense. He refuses to admit that he has done something to deserve this evil.

7) *What would it take to get you to admit you were wrong, if you knew you were right? Would you hold as firmly as Job?*

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8) *Do you ever pray against your enemies? Why or why not?*

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9) *How can a person learn the ways of God, and call on his name?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 28** Many things are found by men- look at all the things we can accomplish and find! Job asks, “But where shall wisdom be found?” We look around today, and we wonder the same thing.

10) *What are some things you are shocked humans are able to do?*

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11) *No matter how many technological advances, wisdom is still found only in God. Why does wisdom get harder to find, the more advanced and "smart" we become?*

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12) *Re-read v.28. Define wisdom. How do you live by wisdom?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 29** We get a description of what Job's life was like before the heavenly conversation between God and Satan. Job looks back with pride in how he carried himself.

13) *What are some of the impressive things Job did?*

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14) *What are the results of following God in your life? (i.e., loving family, work, etc)*

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15) *Who is someone you respect and listen to? Why? How can you learn from them?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**Job 30** The contrast could not be more powerful as Job switches to how people see him now. His life is painful, ugly, difficult. Is he any less 'blessed', following God any less?

16) *Why do you think the people whom Job helped are unwilling to help him?*

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17) *Re-read v.25-28. What are some things that darken people's lives?*

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18) *What can you do today to live a life of integrity by helping the broken?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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## Week 6 | Justification by Grace

*Scripture focus: Job 42:7-17, Luke 10:17-24*

**JOB 31** Job makes his final appeal to God and his friends, asking for honest judgment, true wisdom and insight, and answers from above.

*1) Write down the ways in which Job has lived out his faith.*

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*2) How do you compare with Job's faithfulness? How does that leave you feeling?*

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*3) How will you follow Job's example of righteousness? How do you need to change?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 32** Elihu has waited to speak until he heard everyone else. He has a word for everyone, and he calls out Job's friends and their hypocrisy.

*4) Think of a time you waited to speak. How did it change what you said?*

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*5) Elihu waits to speak till he can't bear it any longer. How does he speak wisely?*

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*6) "I don't know how to flatter..." Why should we not seek to flatter or be partial?*

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**JOB 33** Elihu turns his attention to Job, and although he rebukes him, he does not judge Job. Rather he seeks to remind him of God character of love and presence.

7) *How does Elihu speak differently from the other friends?*

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8) *Re-read v.14-18. How might you be missing what God is trying to say to you?*

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9) *Elihu invites honest conversation. It is important to have people with whom we can speak honestly. Do you have anyone like Elihu? Who? If not, what can you do?*

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**JOB 34** Elihu now focuses on God, swearing, "Far be it from God, that he should do wickedness." God will only do what he deems right and righteous.

10) *Re-read v. 14-15. What is it that gives life to all things? Why is this significant?*

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11) *Elihu asserts, "Who can question God?" How would you answer his question?*

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12) *Re-read v.32. How is the book of Job helping you to see what you cannot see?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 35** From Elihu's perspective, whether Job is sinful or righteous, he has no right to question God's presence and love. None of our behavior will change who God is.

13) *The same- yesterday, today, and forever. How does God's unchanging nature bring comfort and peace- and answers to our unanswerable questions?*

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14) *Why is it important that God treats all people equally?*

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15) *What advantage is there in not sinning? (see v.2-8)*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**Job 36** Elihu claims to speak on God's behalf. Trying to help make sense of God's greatness, he speaks of our inability to see the scope of God's work.

16) *Would you rather choose sinfulness or affliction? Why? (see v.21)*

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17) *What makes Elihu different from the other friends, and even from Job?*

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18) *Do you feel satisfied with Elihu's answers? Why or why not?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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## **Week 7 | The End of the Story (in the middle)**

*Scripture focus: Job 19:21-27, John 11:17-26*

**JOB 37** Elihu asserts his own humility in the presence of God and how Job cannot understand the way in which God is working. We will hear from God next, who takes up similar points. "We cannot draw up our case" because we can't fully see all God is doing.

1) *Look out at the world. What are some of the impressive things God does?*

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2) *We don't get good or bad things because we deserve it, but because God wills it. How does this give us peace in all circumstances?*

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3) *What argument from these men has most convinced you?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 38** Finally God speaks. It is interesting what God says- and leaves unsaid. Not one mention of Satan. Not one mention of God's plan for Job. Only a description of God's bigness.

4) *What would you do if God spoke to you out of a whirlwind?*

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5) *Why do you think God would recount to Job all the things that God alone does?*

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6) *How does God's power and wisdom change the way we look at our circumstances?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 39** God continues his "defense", claiming Job has no right to question him or call him out.

7) *What's your favorite animal? How does your knowledge of it compare to God's?*

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8) *How does it change your perspective of creation, knowing that God plans, coordinates and carries out so much on a daily basis?*

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9) *Read Matthew 10:29-31. How do humans compare to the rest of creation to God?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 40** God gives Job a chance to talk back, but Job vows silence before God. So God continues, displaying again his power and control over all things.

10) *What do you think of Job's answer to God?*

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11) *Do you think it's fair how God continues to highlight his glory to Job, who has suffered so much on God's account? Why or why not?*

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12) *How can we keep a proper perspective of who God is amid hardship?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**JOB 41** Dragons, leviathan, ancient beasts.. oh my! God describes creatures that we cannot fathom. His purpose again is to illustrate to Job that God is on a different level, and we cannot understand the scope of his work.

*13) Do you think God is talking about real creatures? What do you think these are?*

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*14) Why do you think God has created powerful things (tornados, hurricanes, diseases, etc.) that are capable of so much damage?*

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*15) Read Psalm 8. How do we fit into all of God's creation?*

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*Thoughts | Takeaways | Prayers | Key Verses*

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**Job 42** Somehow, God's response makes sense of everything for Job. His friends (other than Elihu) are rebuked by God. Job is again blessed with more than he had at first. We are left wondering what the point of all this was... Well, we learn that God will use our lives for his glory, and to teach Satan a lesson!

*16) Job never falls out of favor with God, although his circumstances differ drastically. How can we always live in God's grace?*

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*17) No purpose of God's can be thwarted. What do you believe God's purpose is for you?*

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# COMING UP NEXT


Lent 2021

## Flowing from the Cross: Six Facets of Forgiveness

For more information, check out: [www.filministries.org](http://www.filministries.org)

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