

Job 3 -Working through Suffering Study 2



Job is a remarkable character. In this study we're going to see just how remarkable. Job answers the question, "What do you do when your worldview comes crashing down, and God doesn't seem to be who you thought he was."

Personal Preparation 1

There's been a moment of silence in the book of Job. He's lost his family, wealth and his health, and now we're going to find out what's going on inside Job's head.

Read Job 3

1. What are Job's two big requests in the first 19 verses.

- Verses 1-10:

- Verses 11-19:

2. From verses 20-26, what is it that Job really desires?

At this point in the book Job's responses haven't been tainted by what his friends have to say. From now on, Job's complaints become more and more pointed and frustrated in response to his friends answers.

3. If you were sitting with Job, and you'd seen what happened to him and heard what he'd had to say, what would you have to say to him? (Pretend you don't know what happened in Chapters 1-2)

Personal Preparation 2

The bulk of the book of Job is the dialogue between Job and his 3 friends + Elihu (Job 3-37). You will often hear the same argument or complaint from Job time and again with a slightly different emphasis. He's blameless of wrong-doing; he will not repent because there is nothing to repent of; he wants God to offer an explanation as to why he's suffering.

The difference between Job and his friends, is that Job has a very deep and real relationship with God.

Read Job 19, one of Job's speeches.

1. How does Job view his friends words to him?

2. Why is he so confident they're wrong?

3. What is Job's great hope?

4. When you suffer, how does it affect your attitude to & relationship with God?

THINK: Is it easier to deal with your own suffering when you've known God for a long time?

Personal Preparation 3

This is Job's final speech, with no reply from his three friends. Elihu has a few words to say after this, but Job doesn't respond to him. This is a long read, but it's worth it to get a feel for how Job is feeling towards the end of his debate, and what his final thoughts are before God confronts him in a few chapters time.

Read Job 29-31, Job's final speech.

As you do, note down:

- Job's view of his own actions:

- Job's ideas about why God has done this to him:

- What Job wants of God now:

Discussion Questions - Job's speeches

You might have picked up in the first two chapters that life isn't going so well for Job. He's lost his family, his friends, his wealth and his health, and he's feeling abandoned by his God.

So what do you do when your whole world comes crashing down around you? What do you do when everything you thought of God is brought in to question? How do you relate to God?

TO START: Did you ever feel like you'd been abandoned by God? What made you think that?

What we want to see from Job today is how HE struggles with his suffering. We're not going to see a resolution for Job just yet, but we are going to see how he copes. **Read Job 3.**

1. We've see at the end of the last chapter that Job doesn't curse God (2:9-10), but what does he have to say about both God and his suffering in this chapter?
2. Who does Job see as responsible for his suffering? Is he right?
3. **Read Job 19:7-20.** Do you think Job is out of line in what he says? Does he go too far?

DISCUSS: Is it OK to doubt and/or question God?

4. Job could have chucked it in and cursed God. But he doesn't. He keeps asking questions, and crying out to God for an answer. How does **Job 19:23-27** hint at what Job's great basis for hope is?
5. Do you think this hope eases Job's suffering?

Read Romans 8:31-39

DISCUSS what you think this passage has to say about:

- What the reality of a Christian's relationship with God is, despite appearances.
 - What this relationship means for how we question God.
 - What this means for us when we're going through hard times.
6. Discuss how questioning & doubt should look for a Christian.

SCENARIO:

1. You are speaking to someone who has given up on God because they lost someone they loved. What can you say to them about how God works in the world, how we relate to God in our suffering, and what God hopes for them?