

JOB

A PATH
THROUGH
SUFFERING

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 3 July 2 2023
“My Servant Job”



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we gather here today under your care and protection. Thank you for your lovingkindness that never fails us. We thank you for those with us, that you would guide our *thoughts and actions to bring you glory. Strengthen us and fill us with your peace. May we love and serve each other as Jesus has shown us. Fill us with the Holy Spirit to do your good work on earth. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Job 38:1-11 (NIV)

Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said:

² *“Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge?”*

³ *Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.*

⁴ *“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?”*

Tell me, if you understand.

⁵ *Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!*

Who stretched a measuring line across it?

⁶ *On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—*

⁷ *while the morning stars sang together and all the angels^[a] shouted for joy?*

⁸ *“Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb,*

⁹ *when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness,*

¹⁰ *when I fixed limits for it*

and set its doors and bars in place,

¹¹ *when I said, ‘This far you may come and no*

farther;

here is where your proud waves halt’?

Job 40:3-5 (NIV)

Then Job answered the Lord:

⁴ *“I am unworthy—how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth.*

⁵ *I spoke once, but I have no answer—twice, but I will say no more.”*

Job 42:1-6 (NIV)

Then Job replied to the Lord:

² *“I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.*

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.

⁴ *“You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.’*

⁵ *My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.*

⁶ *Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.”*

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INTRODUCTION

Job is a man who is plunged into agony, and for chapter after chapter, Job is confused and angry, crying out to God in prayer. He longs to meet with God and prays that God would show up. And God does. This is the climax of the whole book. There are three things we learn about this final climactic appearance of God before Job - the argument of God, the silences of God, and God's wonderful, terrible storm.

God's purposes are far above us and our own understanding. Understandably, like Job, when we suffer deeply we often have questions ("God, why are you allowing this to happen? Why are you not responding?"). However, God is much more interested in helping us grow into the people he has called us to be. His ways are greater than our ways. And while he reveals himself to some extent through His Word, there are many things about God that remain a mystery. Trusting God during difficult times allows us to grow in our faith and in our relationship with our Creator.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Job 38:1-11 (on page 1). What is God's main point in all of His questions? How does it make you feel about God?
2. Do you feel that you give God the reverence he deserves?
3. Do you think that we sometimes assume that we know as much as God? When we cannot understand the ways of God, how does faith play a role? How can we possibly completely know the purposes of God?
4. Read Job 40:3-5, 42:1-6 (on page 1). How do you feel about Job's responses to God? Would you have responded in similar fashion?
5. After Job suffered greatly, God blessed him with wealth and children again. How do you feel about the restoration of Job after his suffering has ended? Would you have felt differently if Job had not been restored? Why?

FINAL APPLICATION

If you are going through a period of suffering say this prayer "I was saved by a man who suffered and didn't deserve it and he did it for me. I am going to be faithful and trust in him."