

Job

Hope and Help when life doesn't make sense.

3/1/22

Job is the oldest book in the Bible and is part of the wisdom literature with a specific slant. It gives us insight when things don't make sense. It is about the most righteous man on the planet who suffers terribly for no known reason. It addresses the problem of unmerited suffering and the righteousness of God. Many argue: How can God be good when bad things happen?

We live in a world plagued by depression and anxiety. Gen Z, our children's generation (1995 to 2010, ages 17 to 32), is the hardest hit. According to the Pew Research Center, some 70% of teens across all genders, races, and family-income levels say that anxiety and depression are significant problems among their peers.

I don't know of one family not affected by mental illness, including depression and anxiety. Let's step into this subject humbly, knowing we have people in our community who have suffered greatly.

4 LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF JOB.

1. How Job helps us when we _____?

It takes away shame, as we realize bad things happen to good people.

It's relieving to know we are not always responsible when life goes wrong.

Job 1:1, 1:22, 2:10, 27: 3-4

Job honestly laments to God, showing us the proper way to process our emotions.

Job 16:6—17:16

God Sees us and cares, even when we don't feel Him near.

Job 10:12, Job 23: 8 – 12, Psalm 139:3, Psalm 23

There is more to the story than we know - The righteous suffer but not without a reason.

Job gives us a peek behind the curtain.

Job was confused in his suffering, but he kept his faith and integrity.

Job 9 & 10, Job 23 & 24

Trust versus Asking Why

A natural response is to wonder why, which eventually leads to a crisis of faith like God is not good or sovereign. These two statements get to the root of the "why" problem.

The way to healing is to surrender to His Lordship and trust in God's character despite painful circumstances. Job 19:25

Look Up - Keep Our Eyes on Jesus.

Isaiah 26:3

2. How _____ on God changes things.

God allowed Job to see Him, and this changed everything.

Job longed to plead his innocence to God, but when God revealed Himself, it right-sized Job, and it was no longer necessary to speak. A fundamental understanding of God makes us submit to His authority. When we think of the vastness of His authority, we realize His competency and sovereignty; it rightly makes us humble and submit to His better way.

Job 42:3 The Message - Job answered God: "I'm convinced: You can do anything and everything. Nothing and no one can upset your plans. You asked, 'Who is this muddying the water, ignorantly confusing the issue, second-guessing my purposes?' I admit it. I was the one. I babbled on about things far beyond me, made small talk about wonders way over my head. You told me, 'Listen, and let me do the talking. Let me ask the questions. *You* give the answers.' I admit I once lived by rumors of you; now I have it all firsthand—from my own eyes and ears! I'm sorry—forgive me. I'll never do that again, I promise! I'll never again live on crusts of hearsay, crumbs of rumor."

God was not trying to make Job more righteous—he already was.

Job did not need to be better; He needed to see God bigger.

It's not about us. It is about Him.

It takes the focus off ourselves. God is more interested in eternity than for us to live a comfy life.

We see God in our pain. God came to Job, demonstrating His love and care for him. He is our ever-present help in times of trouble.

God is competent, caring, loving, and ordered.

He orders our minds.

God responds to Job's suffering not with answers but with Himself.

3. _____ is paramount to God.

Job proved that we want a relationship with God more than what He provides. For Job to have repented would have proved Satan correct.

Job 1: 6-12, Job 2: 3-10, Job 27: 3-6

4. How to be a _____ friend.

- *Sweet friendships refresh the soul and awaken our hearts with joy, for good friends are like the anointing oil that yields the fragrant incense of God's presence. Proverbs 27:9 TPT*
- Be Sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. 1 Peter 3:8
- Anyone who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty. Job 6:14

Job teaches us through the three back and forth discussions with his three friends: Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, and to a small extent, Elihu, how to be a refreshing friend and the mistakes we make when we try to judge instead of being humble and offering compassion.

1. Meet People Where They Are
2. Be careful of Spiritual Arrogance
3. Don't Sermonize with Pat Answers
4. Be Humble - Don't accuse or Criticize
5. Offer ourselves like God offers Himself
6. Offer Help and Encouragement
7. Use God's word as a refreshment, not as a sword.

God Shot: God cares most about our relationship with Him and others.

My Shot: God is the ultimate "spot" to fix our eyes. *Remember the Pirouette story.*

Job Small Group Questions

1. What helps you the most when you are struggling?
2. What have you learned about God in your suffering?
3. Do you feel like you have a personal relationship with Christ?
4. Do you have a refreshing friend? Please describe how this person is refreshing?
5. How can you be a more refreshing friend?
6. Page 119, What are your thoughts on suffering? Has the book of Job changed your views on it? If so, in what ways?