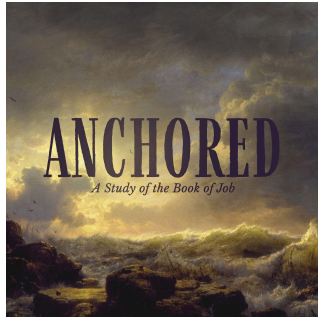




Anchored: A Study of the Book of Job

Week 1: Getting to Know Job (Job 1:1–5)

September 27, 2026

Sermon Summary (Michael Hansen)

This series opener addresses the universal, deeply painful question that hits at the core of the human condition: *"Why do bad things happen to good people?"* Job is introduced as a real, historical man who lived a life of authentic faith and integrity—a good person by all standards. Yet, his story is set up to break the subconscious formula we all carry: the belief that if we live right, life will right. The devastating tension of the book is that God allows this good man's life to be completely interrupted and shattered without giving any immediate answers. Job's journey invites us to look past cheap platitudes and sit in the messy reality of suffering, gently prompting us to wonder how our faith can hold on when a good God allows difficult things to happen to the people who love Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. According to Job 1:1–5, what characterized Job's life in terms of his wealth, his family, and his spiritual rhythms? What does a "blessed life" look like for you in your current season? What are the ordinary gifts from God you are most grateful for right now?
2. The question *"Why do bad things happen to good people?"* may stir up deep thoughts that don't have simple answers. Why do you think this specific question is so difficult for us to consider?
3. When bad things happen to "bad people" in movies or real life, we call it justice and don't question it. Why does our internal sense of fairness break down when an innocent or godly person suffers?
4. Scripture promises that God rewards obedience by pouring out His blessing (Deuteronomy 28, Galatians 6:7-9). Yet, Jesus and the Apostle Peter explicitly guarantee that faithful believers will experience trouble and fiery trials (John 16:33; 1 Peter 4:12). How can both of these realities be true at the same time? How does the "already/not yet" of the Kingdom of God help us hold these two truths together?

5. Where have you—consciously or subconsciously—made a transactional deal with God that says, *"If I do X, Y, and Z for You, then You are obligated to protect me from pain and difficulty"*? How could holding onto this transactional mindset actually hinder you from experiencing God's presence when life gets difficult?
6. Job is a book that trades neat and easy answers for an eventual encounter with God's presence. In a culture that demands quick fixes, how can you practically practice sitting in spiritual silence, tension, or unanswered questions without trying to rush to a solution? Describe some practical things you could do this week with Jesus to hold the tension and invite his presence into different life situations?

Prayer Ministry Time:

When we gather, we believe that God desires to come close and speak directly to our hearts and minds. As we quiet ourselves, pay attention to the gentle ways the Holy Spirit might be moving—whether through an unexpected picture, a word, a quiet impression, a physical or emotional feeling, a line of scripture, or a familiar song. Don't be afraid to share what you receive with the group; what God whispers to you might be the exact lifeline someone else needs to hear. Because the Holy Spirit always echoes the heart of God, we simply test what is shared against the truth of Scripture and the wisdom of our community. Let's invite the Holy Spirit into this space right now, settling our hearts to simply listen. [Spend a few minutes waiting on the Lord. Take time to share and see if any of the words ministered to anyone. This is a safe space to risk and test if what we're sensing is from the Lord.]

Move into smaller groups, taking time to pray over what the Lord might have highlighted during ministry time or sharing any other personal prayer needs with one another.

Here are a few invitations for prayer based on this week's teaching:

- Confess any transactional deals or subconscious "contracts" you have made with the Lord. Hand them over and receive His unconditional love in return.
- Lay down your desire for tidy, quick answers. Ask Jesus for the grace to simply sit with Him through the difficult, unresolved situations you face right now. Ask Him to show you what that looks like.