



Week of October 7, 2018

Job 2:1-10

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD.

² The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."

³ The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason."

⁴ Then Satan answered the LORD, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives.

⁵ But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face."

⁶ The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life."

⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

⁸ Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

⁹ Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die."

¹⁰ But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. You are given the opportunity to ask one question of any person in the world, past or present (except Jesus). Who would you pick and what would your question be?
- B. What forms of suffering are you best able to endure? What would cause you to "break" the fastest?

Bible Study Questions:

1. In this story, God permits Satan to cause tragedy to befall Job. Does this make the tragedy God's fault? Do you feel God causes tragedy in real-life?
2. Job's wife is infamous for her comment to her husband in verse 9. How do you feel about it? Should she be as roundly condemned as she is?
3. In verse 9, Job's wife speaks of Job's "integrity." The Hebrew word for "integrity" implies a particular consistency; that of a person whose conduct is completely in accord with moral and religious norms and whose character is one of utter honesty, without guile. For Job to have "integrity," he would have to not only be refusing to curse God; he must not *want* to curse God. How do you think Job is feeling inside?
4. In verse 10, Job speaks his famous response, "Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" Some folks turn more to God in gratitude for good times, some folks turn more to God for help in bad times. Do you have a tendency one way or the other?
5. Do you know anyone for whom tragedy has turned them away from God? How would the story of Job speak to them?
6. Has a life event ever caused you to question God's existence or God's goodness?
7. What is the most useful way for someone to console you through a difficult time? Is there someone who needs your consolation now?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about loss and perseverance.