

**What did the three friends do wrong?**

**First, the three friends jumped to conclusions about Job's suffering.**

**Their reasoning was a syllogism: God sends calamities upon wicked people only. You have suffered a calamity. Therefore you must be wicked.**

**Job's friends' devastating error was to apply a generalization to Job's situation, without knowing what they're talking about.**

**Human tendency is to give a reason for the suffering — be it right, be it wrong — than to accept the mystery at the heart of suffering.**

**Second, the three friends were determined to defend God by placing the blame on Job.**

**The truth is that God doesn't need our defense and those who are suffering do not need to bear the brunt of blame.**

**When one is suffering, one does not need conclusions and answers and for us to fix things and point out blame.**

## What did Job's friends do right?

1. They heard.
2. They came.
3. They coordinated with each other.
4. They showed appropriate emotion.
5. They showed solidarity with Job.
6. They stayed with Job.
7. They didn't speak.