

Bible Study Guide: Job 2–7

Overview

Job 2–7 continues Job's account of suffering after Satan is permitted to afflict him physically. As Job struggles to understand his circumstances, his friends attempt to explain his suffering. These chapters remind us that faith is not the absence of sorrow, but the decision to continue trusting God even when His purposes remain hidden.

Opening Question

What did you find most encouraging or most challenging in your reading this week?

Job 2

God permits Satan to afflict Job physically, but once again places limits on what Satan can do. Job's wife responds to their tragedy by encouraging Job to curse God and die. Job refuses. He does not understand why these events have happened, but he recognizes that God is worthy of trust in both seasons of blessing and seasons of suffering.

The chapter concludes with the arrival of Job's friends. Before offering any explanations, they spend seven days mourning with Job in complete silence. Their willingness to share in his grief demonstrates genuine compassion before the conversations of the following chapters begin.

Read Aloud: Job 2:7-10. Job 2:11-13

Discussion Questions

1. What do God's limits on Satan teach us about God's sovereignty?
 2. Why do you think Job was able to remain faithful while his wife responded so differently?
 3. What can we learn from the way Job's friends initially responded to his suffering?
 4. Why is it often difficult to simply be present with someone who is hurting?
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Job 3

Job 3 records Job's first words after seven days of silence. Rather than cursing God, Job curses the day of his birth and expresses the depth of his despair. This distinction is significant because Satan had predicted that Job would abandon God under suffering, yet Job continues to direct his words toward God, even in his grief.

This chapter also introduces one of the major themes of the book. Job longs to understand why he has been allowed to suffer, but no explanation is given. As readers, we know what Job does not. His suffering is not the result of secret sin, but part of a greater purpose that remains hidden from him.

Read Aloud: Job 3:1-3. Job 3:23-26

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Job curse the day of his birth?
2. Job repeatedly asks "why" throughout this chapter, and beyond. Is it possible to question God while maintaining trust in Him?

Job 4

Job 4 begins the first cycle of speeches between Job and his friends. Eliphaz speaks first, incorrectly concluding that Job's suffering must be the result of personal sin. However, many of Eliphaz's statements are true, in a general sense. His mistake lies in assuming that what he has witnessed in the past, God's punishment of sinners, must apply to Job's situation. Eliphaz assumes that he understands what God is doing in Job's life.

Eliphaz also describes a frightening vision that convinces him that no one can be righteous before God. This accurate observation points us to our ultimate need for a Savior.

Read Aloud: Job 4:7-9. Job 4:12-17

Discussion Questions

1. Eliphaz allows his personal experiences and observations to shape his understanding of God. Unlike Eliphaz, we have access to the full canon of Scripture. To what degree should we allow our experiences to inform our understanding of God?
2. Have you ever been tempted to assume you knew why God allowed something difficult to happen? What can we learn from Eliphaz's example?

Job 5

Eliphaz continues by encouraging Job to accept God's discipline and repent. He correctly describes God as wise, powerful, and just, but he continues to assume that suffering is always God's correction for personal sin.

Although Eliphaz misunderstands Job's circumstances, his speech reminds us of an important principle. Believers should be careful not to draw conclusions about another person's spiritual condition based solely on their circumstances.

Verse 19 states, "From six troubles He will deliver you; even in seven evil will not touch you." This is a Hebrew literary expression that appears elsewhere in Scripture (see Proverbs 6:16-19; Amos 1-2). It uses one number followed by the next higher number to express completeness or increasing intensity.

Read Aloud: Job 5:8-11. Job 5:17-18.

Discussion Questions

1. How can we distinguish between God's discipline and the ordinary trials of living in a fallen world?
 2. How can we encourage someone who is suffering without making the same mistake as Eliphaz?
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Job 6

Job responds to Eliphaz's first speech by defending the depth of his grief. He believes his friend's attempts to explain his circumstances have only added to his pain. Job challenges his friends to identify any specific sin that would justify their accusations. He is willing to be corrected if he is wrong, but he asks them to speak truthfully rather than assume his guilt.

Read Aloud: Job 6:1-4. Job 6:14-15. Job 6:24

Discussion Questions

1. Job invites his friends to correct him if he is wrong (v. 24). What does this reveal about Job's attitude toward godly correction?
 2. How can we lovingly support someone who is suffering without assuming we know why God has allowed their trial?
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Job 7

Near the end of the chapter, Job turns his attention directly to God. He questions why God seems so focused on him and longs to understand why his suffering continues. Although Job's words are filled with confusion, he continues to bring his questions to God rather than turning away from Him.

Read Aloud: Job 7:17-21

Discussion Questions

1. What does Job's prayer teach us about bringing our deepest questions before God?
 2. Is there a difference between questioning God and accusing God? If so, what is the difference?
 3. How does Job's example encourage believers who struggle with unanswered questions or prolonged suffering?
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Seeing the Gospel

One of the central themes of this week's reading is humanity's inability to stand righteous before a holy God. Eliphaz rightly observes that no one is righteous before God by his own merit (Job 4:17), even though he wrongly applies that truth to Job's circumstances. Throughout Scripture, we learn that every person has sinned and falls short of God's perfect standard. The gospel reminds us that Jesus Christ entered into our suffering, experienced rejection and grief, and ultimately bore the penalty of our sin on the cross. Because of His resurrection, we have the assurance that suffering and death will not have the final word.