

The Book of Job Home Group Notes 1

Job 1:1–2:10 Bad things happen to good people

Set the scene: Is life fair? Discuss

Hear from God: Read Job 1-2 – share it between those who like reading

Who is in charge of Job's suffering?

1. How impressive is Job and to whom? To the people of God? To other nationalities? To other parents? To God? Why does this matter?
2. The interaction between God and the Satan is presented as a conversation. What roles do they have?
3. Why does Job obey God, according to Satan?
4. So what does Satan believe about God?
5. Is Job's suffering within or beyond God's control?
 - a. How does that make you feel?
 - b. What would be the alternative? Is that better?

Does Job's suffering stop him trusting God?

6. What happens to Job? (go through his experiences in order and appreciate the impact of them)
7. Has Job done anything wrong?
8. How does Job react to his terrible suffering? Would you react like that? How might you react?
9. How does the Satan react to Job's suffering?
10. Are you surprised by Job's wife's reaction?
11. Are you surprised by Job's reaction the second time?
12. How significant is the way the passage ends each time?

Apply these things to your life

1. "The LORD gives and the LORD takes away." What do you make of Job's response? How does it strike you?
2. To what extent does Job understand why he is suffering?
3. When we suffer, do you think it is usually for the same reasons as Job?
4. The Satan accuses Job of being more interested in God's gifts than God himself. To what extent could that be true of you? What are some ways that we could ensure we don't fall into that trap?
5. While the footprints and evil tricks of Satan are to be found all over the Bible, he is heard to speak only three times. To Adam he accuses God of being mean in not allowing Adam to indulge his appetites to the full. Here to God he accuses Job of no integrity. In the Gospels he accuses and tempts Jesus. How would you say that these sort of accusations have occurred in your experience or in those around you?
6. When is it hard to believe that God is in control?
7. When we are suffering, how can it be comforting to remember that God is in control?

Prayer ideas

- "The LORD gives, and the LORD takes away, blessed be the name of the LORD." Why not bless the Lord whichever way its going for you
- Thank God his character is good and trustworthy, and his knowledge is infinite – he will never be surprised.
 - Thank God that suffering is never outside his control
 - Pray for those in our church, or others known to us, who are suffering at this time. Pray their trust and hope would be in our good God.
 - Pray for opportunities to comfort with the comfort we ourselves have received from God (2 Cor 1)