



GOD'S ROUTE 66, PART 7: POETRY

Many people approach the Bible looking only for information, answers, and instructions. But God didn't just create us with minds; He created us with hearts. Life brings experiences that can't always be explained with logic alone—grief, joy, worship, disappointment, love, suffering, and longing. The books of poetry teach us that God meets us not only in what we know, but also in what we feel. These books remind us that faith is more than information; it is a relationship with a God who understands every emotion we experience.

BIG IDEA: God gave us poetry because some truths must be felt, not just understood.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What song, poem, book, or piece of art has deeply impacted you emotionally? What made it meaningful?
2. With your Bible or Bible App, [read Job 3:1–11](#).

¹ At last Job spoke, and he cursed the day of his birth. ² He said: ³ “Let the day of my birth be erased, and the night I was conceived. ⁴ Let that day be turned to darkness. Let it be lost even to God on high, and let no light shine on it. ⁵ Let the darkness and utter gloom claim that day for its own. Let a black cloud overshadow it, and let the darkness terrify it. ⁶ Let that night be blotted off the calendar, never again to be counted among the days of the year, never again to appear among the months. ⁷ Let that night be childless. Let it have no joy. ⁸ Let those who are experts at cursing—whose cursing could rouse Leviathan—curse that day. ⁹ Let its morning stars remain dark. Let it hope for light, but in vain; may it never see the morning light. ¹⁰ Curse that day for failing to shut my mother’s womb, for letting me be born to see all this trouble. ¹¹ “Why wasn’t I born dead? Why didn’t I die as I came from the womb?” [Job 3:1–11 \(NLT\)](#)

3. Job expresses deep pain and anguish after experiencing tremendous loss. What stands out to you about Job's honesty? Why do people often struggle to be honest with God about their pain?
4. How does Job's story encourage us during seasons of suffering or disappointment?
5. Why is it difficult to trust God when we don't understand what He is doing? Have you ever experienced a situation that only made sense when you looked back later? What does faith look like when answers don't come quickly?
6. C.S. Lewis wrote in his book, *The Problem of Pain: God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.* Where is God trying to get your attention in your life right now?
7. With your Bible or Bible App, read Psalm 3 and Psalm 18 (or their superscriptions).

A psalm of David, regarding the time David fled from his son Absalom.

[Psalms 3:0 \(NLT\)](#)

For the choir director: A psalm of David, the servant of the LORD. He sang this song to the LORD on the day the LORD rescued him from all his enemies and from Saul. He sang:

[Psalms 18:0 \(NLT\)](#)

8. The Psalms were often written during real-life crises and victories. Why do you think God included songs and prayers in Scripture? How does worship help us during difficult seasons? What role does worship play in your personal relationship with God?

9. With your Bible or Bible App, [read Ephesians 5:18-21](#).

¹⁸ Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, ¹⁹ singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. ²⁰ And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. [Ephesians 5:18-21 \(NLT\)](#)

10. In Ephesians 5:18, Paul gives the command to *be filled with the Holy Spirit*, and then lists the consequences of being filled with God's Spirit. List all of the consequences of being filled with the Spirit found in verses 19-21 (By the way, verses 22-33 are also the result of *being filled with the Spirit*).
11. Singing is connected to your spiritual health. Why do you think worship is so powerful? How can worship change our perspective when life feels overwhelming? What are some practical ways to keep worship a part of everyday life?
12. With your Bible or Bible App, [read Proverbs 1:2-3](#).

These are the wise sayings of Solomon, David's son, Israel's King. They are written down so we'll know how to live well and right, to understand what life means and where it's going; A manual for living... [Proverbs 1:1-3 \(The Message\)](#)

13. Proverbs is described as a "manual for living." Who has been one of the wisest influences in your life? Why is wisdom different from knowledge? What is a piece of wisdom you wish you had learned earlier in life?
14. With your Bible or Bible App, read Ecclesiastes 1:2 and Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.

Everything is meaningless, completely meaningless!" [Ecclesiastes 1:2 \(NLT\)](#)

The last and final word is this: Fear God. Do what he tells you. And that's it. Eventually God will bring everything that we do out into the open and judge it according to its hidden intent, whether it's good or evil. [Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 \(Message\)](#)

15. Solomon eventually discovered that life without God is empty. Why do people often look for fulfillment in things other than God? What are some common places people search for meaning today? How have you discovered that lasting fulfillment comes from God rather than circumstances?
16. The pastor highlighted five emotional experiences represented by the poetry books:

Job — suffering
Psalms — worship
Proverbs — wisdom
Ecclesiastes — emptiness apart from God
Song of Solomon — love

Which of these speaks most directly to your current season of life, and why?

17. God wants your heart, not just your head. What is the difference between knowing about God and knowing God? How can we sometimes substitute information for intimacy with God?
18. What is one way you can cultivate a deeper heart connection with God this week?

MOVING FORWARD

This week, spend time in one of the poetry books that connects with your current season. If you're hurting, read Job. If you're worshipping, read Psalms. If you need guidance, read Proverbs. If you're searching for meaning, read Ecclesiastes. If you're strengthening a relationship, read Song of Solomon. Allow God to speak not only to your mind but also to your heart.

WEEKLY READING

This week, spend some time reading and reflecting on Psalm 1, Psalm 3-4, Proverbs 1-3, and Ecclesiastes 1-2.