

Subject: Character Matters: Lessons from Job's Faithful Life, Job 1:1-12

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In this, our third study in the book of Job, we have a passage challenging us to examine the foundation of our faith and the authenticity of our character before God. For those interested in going deeper, we have some great discipleship resources on this passage [[HERE](#)].

Summary: The sermon explored the remarkable character of Job and the spiritual dynamics at work behind the scenes of his life. We examined how Job's blameless, upright character was rooted not in his circumstances but in his genuine relationship with God. Through the shocking conversation between God and Satan, we witnessed that our faith will be tested, our character will be challenged, and God remains sovereign over all. This passage calls us to consider whether our devotion to God is authentic or merely transactional—do we serve God for who He is, or for what He gives us?

Takeaways:

1. Godly character is built on relationship with God, not life circumstances. Job was blameless, upright, God-fearing, and turned away from evil—not because his life was easy, but because he genuinely belonged to God. Our faith must be anchored in who God is, not in what we possess or experience.
2. Satan accuses, but God remains sovereign. The enemy may have access and influence, but he operates on a chain controlled by God. Our suffering is never random or purposeless; God uses even our deepest trials to draw us closer to Him and shape us into Christ's likeness.
3. Living as a purposeful testimony matters. Job's character was visible to all—he was a walking, breathing witness to God's transforming power. We are called to live authentically before God and others, demonstrating that our worship is genuine regardless of our circumstances.

As we continue through the book of Job, I encourage you to reflect on these questions: Is my faith dependent on God's blessings or on God Himself? Am I living as a visible testimony of God's character? How is God using my current circumstances to refine my faith?

May we, like Job, be known as people who fear God and shun evil, whose character reflects our genuine love for the One who made us.

In His Service, Pastor Jim

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Character Matters

Job 1:1-12

I. Introduction:

1. As I mentioned in the first of our two introductions to Job, this book is a lot of Hebrew poetry wrapped in a little bit of narrative. Please keep in mind that Hebrew poetry is vastly differing from modern day poetry. Hebrew poetry is based upon parallel and contrasting thoughts. As we move through the book we will be challenged to discern the transcendent truths through the evolving and expanding patterns we read.

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II. Job 1:1-5: Job's Godly Character Revealed

1. In offering us both a model and vision for us individually and as God's church, V1 paints a powerful picture of Job's character including that he is 'blameless and upright, one who had a reverent awe of (or fear of) God and turned away from (or shunned) evil'.
 - A. The Hebrew for 'blameless' means to be gentle, pious, peaceable, and having great honesty and integrity. Job was not a perfect man, but he was God's man. To this was added being 'upright'; meaning being a just man not blown to-and-fro by everchanging life circumstances.
 - B. In fearing God and turning away from evil, we see Job had both God-given wisdom and morality. What's more, we have the clear sense throughout the book that Job wore his God-given character for all to see...meaning he was a purposeful living, breathing, walking testimony of God.
2. In verses 2-5, we read of Job's great wealth. Wealth in material things and wealth in relationships – both with God and family. So great were the blessings in his life that he was "the greatest of all people of the East".

- A. Of note, the types of animals he had in large numbers not only spoke of great wealth of themselves, but the oxen and donkeys suggest Job also had extensive crop-lands he harvested.
- B. While Job no doubt spent time stewarding the wealth he had accumulated, it should not escape notice that he remained faithful in investing spiritually in the lives of his adult children. In this, he witnessed biblical headship in humility as he interceded for his children with the Lord.
- C. Together, this picture reveals a man living to please God...a man that had given himself away to God...a man whose faith was not built upon his life circumstances, but in relationship with God and those God placed in his life.

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III. Job 1:6-12: The Father of Lies' Character Revealed

There are several notable points within this shocking peek behind heaven's curtain, including:

1. First, in a live example of the game 'which one of these things doesn't belong', we note that Satan was among the angelic beings coming to present themselves before the Lord. While there are disputes as to who exactly is in view with the term 'sons of God', what is indisputable is that Satan answered to God. As the narrative unfolds, it seems clear that Satan is rankled by the thought of still having to answer to God despite his rebellion and desire to be god.
2. Second, God's questioning of Satan's whereabouts served as a reminder to the reader that Satan is ever-present and active in superintending his dominion. In being reminiscent of a wayward child, Satan is intentionally vague in his response to God's question. So, we see that he (Satan) has access to both heaven and earth as we get a clear sense he is up to no good. A few other things to note regarding the power dynamic of God and Satan include:

- A. God is NOT seeking Satan's counsel;
 - B. In the blindness of his pride, a scheming Satan seems to think he can win. He goes so far as to not just accuse Job, but to accuse God of enabling Job's supposed false worship;
 - C. While instrumental in bringing forward great Godly truths, Satan is a bit role player in this unfolding drama. Yes, he has power. Yes, he is evil. Yes, he seeks to and finds considerable success in stealing, killing, and destroying many of those God made in God's image. But the real power and the real victory belong only to God. Satan is on a dog chain of his own making...one that the Lord exercises as He wills.
3. Third, what an amazing testimony of Job by God. A man of Godly character reflected in how he lived his life. A rare sight indeed, found in a man whose wealth had NOT corrupted him!
4. Fourth, the 'great accuser' goes on the offensive. He says Job is faithful because God has bought his allegiance and enforced his actions with protection, provision, and great blessings. In the first of two great irony's, in that they speak far more truth about Satan than they do about Job, we read:
- A. First, Satan claims Job is a prideful man that actually loves his way of life and NOT God – that if Job lost everything he counts dear in life, his faith will fold like a cheap tent in a light wind. That is, Satan contends that Job's religion is really to gain worldly riches and be freed from God.
 - B. In what is the second great irony, the very thing Job gives penitence for his children about in v5 is how Satan attacks Job in v11 – that Job will 'curse' God. In his pride, Satan is telling God that he knows better than God just who Job is specifically and mankind is generally. Satan understands that worldly temptations and pressures are too often effective in driving a wedge between mankind and God.

5. Finally, we read, 'Permission granted'. This is one of the toughest things for believers and unbelievers alike to process. Why did the sovereign God grant Satan permission to sift Job through nearly unbearable suffering? It defies our desires for comfort and makes no sense regarding the ways we want to live out our lives.

Yet, through Job's example, we come to see that (a) God's thoughts and ways are NOT our thoughts and ways, (b) our best course of action is to trust and testify of God whether we understand or not, and (c) [taking a sneak peek at what is ahead in our study] our suffering is a powerful tool that God uses to reveal Himself and draw us and those we love to Himself and in making His children more-and-more like Him.

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IV. Closing: The Stage Being Set

1. Chapter 1 of Job, including our opening passage today, are foundational for the extended discourse between Job, his friends, and finally, with God. They are building a picture of:
 - A. The desirability and beauty of Job's Godly character for us to see, understand, and aspire toward;
 - B. The stench of Satan's ungodly character as liar, accuser, deceiver, and self-serving pride-monger who we will purposefully shun in favor of chasing God, His plan and His ways; and
 - C. God's personal involvement in and sovereignty over all leading to our trusting Him in all things.

Job 1:1-12, Character Matters

Discussion Prompts

Don't be shy or embarrassed, this is a safe place to talk, learn, and grow. All of us should walk with an attitude of grace and Godly love in encouraging one another to contribute to our shared growth in the Lord.

For more discussion questions helping your faith to grow, please download the sermon documents typically posted the day after each sermon on the watch tab of our App or website.

1. What personal lessons can you glean from Job (the greatest of all people in the east and maybe even the world) being a living, breathing, walking, talking testimony of God who lived to please God?
2. Does it surprise you that Satan has access to God in heaven? Furthermore, we read that Satan understands and exploits mankind's sinful hearts AND that his power is very real. Yet, the dialogue clearly relays God's sovereignty over Satan. Discuss if and how these considerations inform your everyday living.
3. Have you ever been sifted like Satan? Meaning, has your life ever been so full of hardship that you found yourself calling out to, challenging, being angry with, or even saying hard/harsh things to God? If so, what work did or is God doing to walk with you through your suffering?

Job 1:1-12

Character Matters

I. Introduction: Grabbing Godly Principles Through Parallel and Contrasting Thoughts

II. Job 1:1-5: Job's Godly Character Revealed

- Remarkably (and maybe even miraculously) Job was NOT defined by his circumstances (wealth and comfortability).
- Job values God and the things of God above himself.

III. Job 1:6-12: The Father of Lies' Character Revealed

- Satan is evil, real, active, and intentional.
- Apart from God, we are woefully unprepared and unable to combat Satan and His evil ways.
- God's thoughts and ways are NOT our thoughts and ways.
- Trust in God and not in ourselves and the things of the world.

IV. Closing: The Stage Being Set

- Three big takeaways from our passage include (3 hints, Job's Character, Satan's Character, and God's involvement/sovereignty):

5-Day Devotional **Job 1:1-12** **Character Matters**

Day 1: Blameless Before God

Reading: Job 1:1-5; Ps 15:1-5

Devotional: Job's character was not defined by perfection but by consistent devotion. Being blameless means living with integrity when no one is watching and maintaining moral uprightness regardless of circumstances. Job's wealth never corrupted his worship, and his success never diminished his dependence on God. His intercession for his children reveals a heart prioritized around spiritual concerns rather than material accumulation.

Consider today: What defines your character when stripped of external achievements? Does your faith rest on God's nature or your circumstances? Like Job, pursue gentleness, honesty, and integrity as reflections of belonging to God. Let your life become a walking testimony that points others toward the faithfulness of our Creator. True godliness is revealed not in what we possess but in who possesses us.

Day 2: The Reality of Spiritual Warfare

Reading: Job 1:6-12; Eph 6:10-18

Devotional: The heavenly scene in Job reveals a sobering truth: spiritual warfare is real, and Satan actively seeks to undermine our faith. Yet notice the power dynamic—Satan must ask permission. He operates on a leash held firmly by God's sovereign hand. The accuser's strategy remains unchanged: he questions our motives, attacks our blessings, and predicts our failure.

Satan accused Job of loving God's gifts rather than God Himself. This same accusation echoes through time. Are we faithful because of God's protection and provision, or because of God Himself? When blessings are removed, does our worship remain? The enemy wants to convince you that your faith is transactional. Today, examine your heart. Worship God not for what He gives, but for who He is—the unchanging, sovereign Lord worthy of praise in every season.

Day 3: Suffering as Sacred Ground

Reading: Job 1:13-22; Ja 1:2-4

Devotional: God's permission for Job's suffering confronts our comfort-seeking hearts. We want a God who prevents pain, yet Scripture reveals a God who sometimes permits it for purposes beyond our immediate understanding. Suffering becomes the crucible where authentic faith is refined and revealed.

Job's response to devastating loss—"The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord"—demonstrates worship untethered from

circumstances. His faith was not built on blessings but on relationship with the Blesser. Suffering exposes what we truly believe about God's character and sovereignty.

When trials come, they reveal whether our foundation rests on sand or rock. God uses hardship to draw us closer, shape us into Christ's image, and display His sustaining grace. Trust that your suffering is not purposeless. God is present, sovereign, and working even when understanding eludes you.

Day 4: Turning From Evil

Reading: Job 1:1, 8; Prov 3:5-8

Devotional: Job's character included actively turning away from evil—not passive avoidance but intentional rejection. This required constant vigilance and moral courage. Fearing God means reverencing Him above all else, allowing that holy awe to direct every decision and relationship.

In our culture of moral relativism, turning from evil marks us as different. It requires swimming against cultural currents and choosing God's wisdom over popular opinion. Job's uprightness meant he was not blown about by changing circumstances or societal pressures. His moral compass pointed consistently toward God's truth.

What evil are you tolerating that God calls you to shun? Where have cultural values infiltrated your thinking? Godly wisdom begins with fearing the Lord—acknowledging His authority, trusting His ways, and obeying His Word. Make the deliberate choice today to turn from compromise and walk in integrity. Let reverence for God be the foundation of every decision you make.

Day 5: Living the Gospel

Reading: Job 29:7-17; Matthew 5:13-16

Devotional: Job wore his God-given character publicly. He was a living, breathing testimony of God's transforming power. His integrity was visible in the marketplace, evident in family relationships, and demonstrated through compassion for the vulnerable. He did not compartmentalize faith as private belief separate from public life.

God desires the same from us—to be salt and light in a decaying, dark world. Your character speaks louder than your words. Coworkers, neighbors, and family members watch how you respond to pressure, treat others, and navigate hardship. They see whether your faith is genuine or merely religious performance.

Ask yourself: If others examined my life, would they see God's fingerprints? Does my character point people toward Christ or toward myself? Like Job, invest spiritually in those God has placed in your life. Let humility, integrity, and authentic worship define you. Be intentional about living as God's testimony in every sphere of influence He has entrusted to you.

Small Group Study Guide

Job 1:1-12

Character Matters

Opening Prayer: Begin your time together by asking God to open your hearts and minds to His truth, and to help you apply what you learn from Job's example.

Key Takeaways: Query the group for takeaways first...you may stay with one or more of those.

1. Job's Godly Character: Job was blameless, upright, feared God, and turned away from evil—not perfect, but purposefully living as God's man.
2. Character Transcends Circumstances: Job's faith was not built on his wealth or comfort but on his relationship with God.
3. Satan's Limited Power: Though active and destructive, Satan operates under God's sovereign authority and permission.
4. The Purpose of Suffering: God uses trials to draw us closer to Him and shape us to become more like Christ.
5. Living Testimony: Job's character was visible to all—he was a walking, breathing testimony of God's work in his life.

Discussion Questions: Did the Holy Spirit prompt any questions with you? Start with those.

1. The sermon describes Job as "blameless and upright." What does it mean to be blameless before God while still being imperfect?
2. Job was described as the "greatest of all people of the East," yet remained faithful to God. How does wealth or success often corrupt character? What safeguards can we put in place to prevent this in our own lives?
3. Job regularly interceded for his adult children (v. 5). What does this teach us about spiritual leadership in our families? How can we be more intentional about praying for our loved ones?
4. The sermon reveals that Satan had to present himself before God and answer to Him. How does this change or reinforce your understanding of Satan's power and limitations?

5. Satan accused Job of serving God only because of the blessings he received. How do we guard against "transactional faith"—serving God for what we get rather than for who He is?
6. Why do you think God allowed Satan to test Job? What does this reveal about God's confidence in genuine faith?
7. Pastor Jim said Job's faith "was not built upon his life circumstances, but in relationship with God." On a scale of 1-10, how much would you say your faith depends on your circumstances? What would help you grow in this area?
8. Job was a "purposeful living, breathing, walking testimony of God." If someone observed your life this week, what would they learn about your faith and character?
9. The sermon mentions that suffering is "a powerful tool that God uses to draw us to Himself." Can you share a time when difficulty actually strengthened your relationship with God?

Practical Applications: Query the group for applications first...you may explore one or more of those.

1. Reflect on the four aspects of Job's character: blameless (gentle, honest, peaceful), upright (just, steady), God-fearing, and turning from evil.
2. Identify one area where you want to grow and take one specific action this week to develop that trait.
3. Following Job's example, create a list of family members or friends you will pray for regularly.
4. Commit to praying for them daily this week, asking God to protect them spiritually and draw them closer to Him.
5. List the blessings in your life (relationships, resources, opportunities).
6. Spend time thanking God for these gifts while also examining whether your faith depends on them or on God Himself.
7. Ask a trusted friend or family member: "What does my life communicate about my faith?"

8. Listen without defensiveness and consider how you can be a clearer witness to God's work in your life.

Closing Prayer Points:

- Develop godly character in each group member
- Strengthen faith that is rooted in relationship with Him, not circumstances
- Prepare hearts to trust Him even in difficult seasons
- Make each person a clear testimony of His grace and power

Discussion Questions

Job 1:1-12

Character Matters

1. In what ways does Job's example of being 'blameless and upright' challenge our modern understanding of success and what it means to live a God-honoring life?.
2. How does Job's practice of interceding for his adult children inform our responsibility to pray for family members, even when they are no longer under our direct care?
3. What does Satan's presence among the angelic beings presenting themselves before God reveal about the nature of spiritual warfare and God's ultimate authority?
4. Why do you think God allowed Satan to test Job, and what does this teach us about the relationship between divine sovereignty and human suffering?
5. How can we distinguish between faith that is genuine relationship with God versus faith that is merely transactional, seeking blessings and protection?
6. In what ways might our own prosperity or comfort become a barrier to authentic worship, and how can we guard against this?
7. What does Satan's accusation that Job only serves God because of the blessings he receives reveal about the enemy's fundamental misunderstanding of true faith?
8. How does the reality that Job lived faithfully without access to Scripture challenge or encourage your own walk with God in a time of abundant biblical resources?
9. What does it mean practically to be a 'purposeful living, breathing, walking testimony of God' in your daily life and relationships?
10. How should the knowledge that Satan is on a 'dog chain' controlled by God affect the way we respond to trials and spiritual attacks in our lives?

Dinner Conversation Starters
Job 1:1-12
Character Matters

1. What Really Shapes Our Character?

Job is described as “blameless and upright,” even though he didn’t have a Bible, a church building, or Christian media. What do you think shaped Job’s character most? For us today, what most influences our character day to day (friends, media, work/school, church, family)? Is there one small change we could each make this week to let God shape our character more than our circumstances?

2. Wealth, Blessings, and Priorities

Job was extremely wealthy and blessed, but his heart still clearly belonged to God. Do you think it’s harder or easier to follow God when life is going well? Why? What are some “blessings” in our family (money, talents, opportunities, relationships)? How can we enjoy those blessings without letting them slowly become more important than God?

3. Leading Spiritually in the Home

Job regularly interceded for his adult children—he took their spiritual lives seriously. What might it look like in our home for us to “intercede” for each other like Job did for his kids? How can parents (or older siblings) practice humble spiritual leadership instead of bossy leadership? Is there one specific way we could start praying for each other more intentionally this week?

4. Suffering, Trust, and God’s Sovereignty

God allowed Satan to test Job, which is hard for us to understand. Why do you think God might sometimes allow suffering instead of stopping it immediately? Have you or anyone in your ‘family’ gone through something hard that later helped them grow closer to God or mature in character? When life feels unfair, what helps you keep trusting God—or what makes it hard to trust Him?

5. Seeing Satan’s Lies vs. God’s Truth

In the sermon, Satan is called the liar, accuser, and deceiver—yet God is shown as sovereign and good. What are some common “lies” people believe today about God, themselves, Satan, or success?

Family Conversation Guide for Children & Early Teens

Job 1:1-12

Character Matters

AGES 5-7: SIMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Choosing What Is Right Even When No One Is Watching**: Job was “blameless and upright.” He did the right thing because he loved God, not just when people were looking. Talk about simple everyday choices: Telling the truth even if it means a consequence, Sharing toys, Not laughing when others are being mean.

Discussion Questions:

- (a) “What is something you could do that is right, even if your friends don’t see it?”
 - (b) “Has there been a time at school when kids were being unkind? What could you do to be like Job and choose what God wants instead?”
 - (c) “If you make a wrong choice, what do you think God wants you to do next?”
2. **Loving God More Than Our Stuff**: Job had lots of animals and things, but they didn’t own his heart—God did. Connect this to toys, games, and screen time: Being willing to pause a show or game to help someone. Not getting angry when a toy breaks or someone else gets a turn

Discussion Questions:

- (a) “What is your favorite toy or game? How would you feel if you lost it?”
 - (b) “How can we show that we love God and people more than our stuff?”
 - (c) “Next time you have to share or turn something off, what could you say to God in your heart?”
3. **Talking to God About Our Family and Friends**: Job prayed for his children and cared about their hearts. Help them see they can talk to God about the people they love: Praying for a classmate who is sad or being bullied or praying for a sibling who is having a hard day

Discussion Questions:

- (a) “Is there anyone at school or in our family you want to pray for tonight?”
- (b) “If a friend is being mean, what could we ask God to help us do?”
- (c) “How can we be like Job and help our family follow God?”

AGES 8-12: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Building Real Character in Friend Groups**: Job’s character didn’t change with circumstances. He feared God and turned away from evil. Discuss: Not joining in when friends gossip, tease, or bully, Being honest, even when lying would make life easier, Standing up (even quietly) for someone being left out.

Discussion Questions:

- (a) “Can you think of a time friends were doing something you knew wasn’t right? What did you do?”
- (b) “How can you ‘turn away from evil’ at school or with friends without being rude or acting ‘better than’ them?”
- (c) “If you feel pressured to fit in, what’s one way you can remember who God wants you to be?”

2. **Handling Jealousy and Comparison (Especially Online)**: Satan accused Job of loving the gifts not the Giver. We can be tempted to measure ourselves by what others have. Seeing friends’ “perfect” posts or gaming wins and feeling jealous, comparing clothes, devices, or talents.

Discussion Questions:

- (a) “Have you ever seen something online or at school that made you wish you were like someone else?”
- (b) “What lie might Satan be whispering in moments like that (e.g., ‘You’re not good enough’)? What do you think God says is true about you?”
- (c) “How could you respond next time—what could you think, pray, or do differently?”

3. **Trusting God When Life Feels Unfair**: God allowed Job’s suffering, but He was still in control and still good. Connect to: Not making a team, getting a bad grade, being left out, friendship drama or being misunderstood.

Discussion Questions: “Has something happened recently that felt really unfair or painful?”

“What are some things we know are true about God even when life doesn’t make sense?”

“How could you talk to God about this and ask Him to help your heart, not just fix the situation?”

AGES 11-15: DEEPENING THE CONNECTION APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Integrity in Digital Spaces (Who You Are When No One Sees)**: Job’s character was consistent; Satan couldn’t honestly accuse him of fake worship. Think about what you look at, watch, or scroll when parents aren’t in the room, what you “like,” share, or comment on, and how you talk in group chats (sarcasm, sexual jokes, gossip, tearing others down).

Discussion Questions: “If someone could see your private messages, likes, and search history, would it match who you say you are as a Christian?”

“Where do you feel the strongest pull to compromise online—humor, images, language, or something else?”

“What would it look like to ‘fear God and shun evil’ in your digital life this week? Is there one practical change you’d be willing to try?”

2. **Responding to Accusations, Drama, and Misunderstandings**: Satan is “the accuser,” and Job is falsely accused later by his friends. God knows the truth. Think 6

about being blamed for something you didn't do or having rumors spread about you or being judged by one moment, a screenshot, or one mistake.

Discussion Questions:

- (a) "Have you ever felt falsely accused or judged by friends or online?"
 - (b) "When that happens, what's your usual response—rage, shutting down, defending yourself, or trying to fix your image?"
 - (c) "What would it look like to remember that God knows the full truth about you? How might that change the way you respond?"
 - (d) "How can you avoid playing the role of the 'accuser' in other people's lives—online and in person?"
3. Suffering, Anxiety, and the Question: 'Is God Really Good?': God allowed Job's suffering to bring about deeper trust and revelation, not because He didn't care. Do you ever feel: Anxiety, depression, or feeling alone, family struggles, broken friendships, health issues, or feeling like God is distant or silent

Discussion Questions:

- (a) "Without fixing anything, can you share one area of your life that feels heavy, confusing, or painful right now?"
- (b) "In those moments, what lies are easiest to believe about God (e.g., 'He doesn't care,' 'He's punishing me,' 'He's not real')?"
- (c) "What truths about God's character from Job (or elsewhere in Scripture) push back against those lies?"
- (d) "If God sometimes uses suffering to shape our character, what kind of person do you hope He's shaping you to become?"

Tips for Parents

- Be patient and listen: Give your child time to think and respond.
- Relate to everyday life: Use real-life examples and stories familiar to your child to make abstract concepts more tangible.
- Encourage questions: Let your son or daughter know it's okay to ask questions, even if things don't make sense right away.
- Share personal insights: Tell a personal story about a time you experienced these themes, adapting as needed for age appropriateness.

Family Conversation Guide for Gen Z

Job 1:1-12, Character Matters

1. Integrity When No One is Watching

Bible Reference: “Blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.” – Job 1:1 “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.” – Proverbs 15:3

Application: Job’s character was real, not just for show. Gen Z lives in a world where you can be one person on your “public” account and another in DMs, private stories, or alt accounts. Integrity means being the same person with God, offline, and online.

Scenario: You’re in a group chat where everyone starts roasting a classmate who isn’t in the chat. Screenshots fly, people pile on, and someone drops a photo that could really humiliate them if it spreads. No adults will ever see it. You get invited to react, send memes, or add your own screenshot.

Discussion: If you feared God more than missing out or looking weak, how would you respond in that chat—and what might it cost you socially to stay “blameless and upright” there?

2. Loving God More Than the Blessings

Bible Reference: “Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him...?” – Job 1:9–10 “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” – Matthew 22:37

Application: Satan accused Job of loving God only because of what he got out of it. For Gen Z, “blessings” can look like followers, brand deals, scholarships, athletic success, or a perfect aesthetic. The question is: if those disappeared, would your love for God disappear too?

Scenario: our content has been doing well—likes, comments, DMs. Then an algorithm change hits, engagement drops, and someone else starts blowing up in the same space you’re in. You feel invisible and low-key salty. You catch yourself thinking, “What’s the point of honoring God with this if nothing’s happening?”

Discussion: When your “numbers” or success crash, how can you tell whether you were worshipping God—or worshipping your own platform and results in His name?

3. Spiritual Leadership Among Friends

Bible Reference: “And Job...rose early in the morning and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, ‘It may be that my children have sinned...’” – Job 1:5 “Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example...” – 1 Timothy 4:12

Application: Job took spiritual responsibility for his family. You might not be a parent, but you can still be a spiritual influencer in your friend group: praying for them, checking in, and gently pointing them toward Christ.

Scenario: Your close friend group is going through it—one is dealing with anxiety, another with family drama, another considering stuff they know is wrong (hookups, self-harm, substance use). The group chat is mostly memes and distractions, but no one talks about what’s really going on.

Discussion: What would it look like for you to be a “Job” in your group—praying for them, starting real conversations, maybe even asking, “Can I pray for you right now?”—and what fear holds you back from that?

4. Recognizing Satan’s Lies Online

Bible Reference: “Have you considered my servant Job...?” – Job 1:8 “He was a murderer from the beginning...for he is a liar and the father of lies.” – John 8:44 “[The devil is] the accuser of our brothers...” – Revelation 12:10

Application: Satan twisted Job’s motives and accused him before God. Today, Satan weaponizes comparison, shame, and identity confusion—often through what you see, hear, and repeat online. His lies sound like your own thoughts: “You’re not enough. God’s holding out on you. You’ll never change.”

Scenario: You scroll through TikTok/IG and see endless “glow-ups,” relationship goals, perfect bodies, wild parties. You also see content mocking Christians, trivializing sin, or redefining identity and sexuality apart from God. Part of you knows it conflicts with Scripture; part of you feels stupid or “behind” for not living like that.

Discussion: What specific lie about yourself, God, or relationships hits you hardest online—and what clear truth from God’s Word could you use, like Job, to resist and “shun” that lie?

These points aim to empower Gen Z to live out their faith genuinely and courageously in various aspects of their daily lives, reflecting Biblical integrity, compassion, and steadfastness.