

Subject: Trusting God in Our Darkest Moments - Job 6-7 Recap

Dear Church Family,

The book of Job is full of great nuggets helping us to navigate the troubles and tribulations of this life. For a copy of the teaching notes and a number of discipleship materials, please go [\[HERE\]](#).

This week, we walked alongside Job during one of his darkest hours as he responded to his friend Eliphaz's accusations. Job's raw honesty with God and his deep disappointment with his friends reveal profound truths about suffering, friendship, and faith. While Job struggled to understand why God seemed distant during his overwhelming trials, his story reminds us that we often cannot see the full picture of what God is accomplishing in and through our circumstances.

Summary: The sermon explored Job's response to his friends' accusations, revealing his personal anguish, desire for death, and heartbreak over their lack of compassion. Despite feeling abandoned and misunderstood, Job maintained his faith in God's sovereignty, even while wrestling with wrong theology about death and resurrection. His story challenges us to trust God's faithfulness even when our circumstances make no sense and our prayers seem to go unanswered.

Takeaways:

1. God is worthy of our trust, even in our darkest moments when He seems silent and our circumstances feel unbearable.
2. True friendship requires compassion and listening, not quick judgments and condemnation, especially when others are suffering.
3. Our relationship with God is founded on His grace, not our works, and we should be eternally grateful that our standing before Him does not depend on our performance.

As we reflect on Job's story this week, may we find comfort in knowing that God sees us, knows our struggles, and remains faithful even when we cannot sense His presence.

In Christ,

Pastor Jim

Job 5-6, Job's Response to Eliphaz

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. Hopelessness is all too real in our culture today. Share some practical ways we can both guard against hopelessness in our lives and speak into the lives of those that are hopeless.
2. In Job 7:1-6, Job was emphasizing the futility of his hard life. Yet, his life story has given hope to millions throughout the generations – far from futile! How can we, even in difficult times, see things more through God's eyes than our own?
3. In Job 7:7-21, Job's desire to vindicate himself is loud and clear. While real, do you see this desire as healthy or unhealthy? Discuss why. Also, consider whether vindication can be a stumbling block in our faith.

Vindicate: To defend, maintain, or insist on the recognition of one's rights...to justify or prove one's value.

Job 6-7 Outline

Job's Response to Eliphaz (and friends)

- I. Introduction**
- II. Job 6:1-7: Personal Anguish**
- III. Job 6:8-10: A Desire to Die**
- IV. Job 6:11-13: Job's Hopelessness**
- V. Job 6:14-23: Heartbreak With Unfaithful Friends**
- VI. Job 6:24-27: I Need Advice, Not Correction**
- VII. Job 6:28-30: Wanting to be Understood**
- VIII. Job 7:1-6: Futility of Job's Hard Life**
- IX. Job 7:7-21: Job's Words for God, His Desire for Vindication**
- X. Closing: Trust in God's Grace**

Job's Response to Eliphaz (and friends)

Slide 2

Job 6:1-7:21

XI. Introduction:

1. As Job's story continues to unfold, please keep in mind that this is a real, in-person story, where voice inflections, body language, hunger, rest room breaks, culture, language, and other relationship dynamics are central to their experience and understanding of what is unfolding.
2. We will use the following outline as a guide for traveling through Job's response to Eliphaz and the other men:

Job 6:1-7.....Personal Anguish

Job 6:8-10.....A Desire to Die

Job 6:11-13.....Job's Hopelessness

Job 6:14-23.....Heartbreak With Unfaithful Friends

Job 6:24-27.....I Need Advice, NOT Correction

Job 6:28-30.....Wanting to be Understood

Job 7:1-6.....Seeming Futility of Job's Hard Life

Job 7:7-21.....Job's Words for God, His Desire for Vindication

Slide 4

Slide 6

XII. Job 6:1-7: Personal Anguish

1. In v4, it seems clear that Job feels God is punishing him. In v5, Job is declaring his right to complain. **While silent here, this is something the Lord will weigh in on later....**a sneak peek ahead shows that God does NOT agree that Job has a right to complain.
2. Verses 6-7 indicate that Job is rejecting the "meal" (meaning his life circumstances) that God is giving him. **Job neither wants, nor in his mind, deserves the life he is living.**

3. Overall, the sense of our opening passage is that Job's troubles are so monumental as to be unbearable. While not claiming to be sinless, his troubles are not birthed in his sins so he cries out to God. I suspect many, if not all, of us have done the same.

Slide 8

XIII. Job 6:8-10: A Desire to Die

1. These verses of wishing for death are unsurprising as they restate Job's words from chapter 3. In the darkness of his troubles, he sees himself as (1) having NEVER rejected God and (2) having stood for Him. He is lost, hurt, and seemingly angry as to why bad things are happening to him...yet, he will not forsake God even though his circumstances make NO sense to him.

Slide 10

XIV. Job 6:11-13: Job's Hopelessness

1. In his hopelessness, Job asks a series of rhetorical questions...all of which having the answer of 'no' or 'none'. While mis-applied, there is truth that we have very little control over anything. At this point in his troubles, Job has been calling out to God again and again, but never been able to connect with Him and so he has come to the place of hopelessness – his life just makes no sense...where is the God he has worshipped and followed?
2. Because we know what led to his circumstances, including God's high regard for him, and because we know God cares for and is for Job, we see his story through a different lens. I note this only because we too, like Job, don't know all that is happening in our lives. This leads to one of the main points of this entire book... knowing that Jesus is faithful and trustworthy, the wise move is to follow Him in all life circumstances!

Slide 12

XV. Job 6:14-23: Heartbreak With Unfaithful Friends

1. In the balance of chapter 6, Job unleashes a withering attack on his friends, before he seemingly softens and invites them to reconsider their deductive conclusion that Job's trials are of His

own making. More specifically, he uses imagery to emphasize his main point – He never asked for their help, but they came to help. Yet, instead of the loyalty, mercy, kindness, and compassion he truly needed, they hurled condemnations and judgement and left him dazed and confused by their deceit.

Slide 14

XVI. Job 6:24-27: I Need Advice, Not Correction

1. As we noted in Eliphaz's speech, the friends never pointed to the actual cause of His guilt. What's more they weren't listening, AND its clear with Job's use of the plural pronoun 'your' that he saw them all as in cahoots together. They were ignoring the essence of his circumstance because they presumed his guilt. We could summarize it, in part, by saying they were mean and heartless, rather than comforting and caring.

Slide 16

XVII. Job 6:28-30: Wanting to be Understood

1. Whether Job was giving them space to repent themselves or the sound of his own bitter voice convicted him, it seems as though his heart softened here a bit. Rather than slinging stinging words at them, he seems to want to engage with them.
2. For sure, his integrity was at stake and in a very real sense, this means his testimony of God is being brought into question. Further, in calling them to yield, Job is also confronted with the reality of his and their limitations, even if they were to try to bring him comfort...which they weren't.

Slide 18

XVIII. Job 7:1-6: Futility of Job's Hard Life

Day after day of overwhelming challenges...of thinking back upon what he once had, including the emptiness in his heart for his lost family and the silence of God, of sleeplessness, of a disease wracked body, and living an overflowing bucket of sorrows and brokenness.

While his words speak of futility in the moment, we again can see the truth is far from futile. Since I think it likely that Job was written during

the patriarchal period, just over 100 generations (with a generation = 40 years) have had the blessing of this book in coming to know God more fully and to live-out lives bringing Him honor and glory.

XIX. Job 7:7-21: Job's Words for God, His Desire for Vindication

1. The summary of these verses reads: God is God....*despite all of his trials and despite not knowing all the theology we are blessed to know, Job had the faith to follow God.* Oh that we may have such faith in our hard times, including allowing God to use these difficult times to shape and mold us into His image.
2. Throughout this section we are also left with the sense that Job believes God is intimately involved in our lives. *This would have warred against the common religions of the day.* He also presents a very real tension that while God is involved in our lives, mankind is not worthy of God's involvement and that man is no threat to God's sovereignty (v17).
3. There are a few other details that I want to point you to before we close:
 - A. In v8, it seems that Job has concluded that once he is gone, he will be out of God's sovereignty. *This was Job pleading for God to come with urgency...before it was too late;*
 - B. In vs 9-10, we see signs of wrong theology as Job denies the resurrection;
 - C. Verses 11-16 emphasize that, according to Job, his life is not worth living;
 - D. In vs 17-21, Job presents God as playing cat-and-mouse game even while asking why God even bothers with people; and
 - E. The passage ends with Job believing he will be dying soon.

XX. Closing: Trust in God's Grace

1. There is a general sense throughout this book and passage that Job is not presenting himself as sinless. **He knows he needs forgiveness.** He also believes he has surrendered his life to the Lord and has nothing left of value to give to God...so, as his thought goes, why is the Lord continuing to punish him?
2. In his way of thinking, his brokenness is NOT because he has rejected God! **Instead, he has embraced God and yet his hopelessness mounts...**for you see, he too had a wrong-headed works-based understanding of his relationship with God.
3. Two big walkaways....(a) God is worthy of our trust and **(b) we should be eternally grateful that our relationship with God is founded in His grace and not our works.**

[Prayer]

5-Day Devotional

Job 6:1-7:21

Job's Response to Eliphaz (and friends)

Day 1: When Life Makes No Sense

Reading: Job 6:1-7; Ro 8:28

Devotional: Job's anguish reminds us that faithfulness to God does not guarantee a trouble-free life. In his darkest moment, Job felt God's arrows piercing him, yet he refused to abandon his faith. Like Job, we often face circumstances that defy explanation. The meal God serves us may taste bitter, and we may cry out in confusion. Yet Romans 8:28 assures us that God works all things for good. We don't need to understand everything; we need to trust the One who does.

Today, bring your honest questions and complaints to God. He is big enough to handle your raw emotions while remaining faithful to His purposes for your life.

Day 2: The Desire to Hold On

Reading: Job 6:8-10; Ps 27:13-14

Devotional: Job wished for death, yet declared he would never forsake God. This paradox reveals the essence of genuine faith—holding onto God even when letting go seems easier. Job found his only comfort in knowing he had remained faithful to the Lord. When hopelessness threatens to overwhelm you, remember that faith is not the absence of despair but the choice to trust despite it. The psalmist encourages us to wait for the Lord and be strong.

Your circumstances may scream that God has abandoned you, but your faith whispers the truth: He never will. Let Job's stubborn loyalty inspire you to hold fast today, even if holding on is all you can do.

Day 3: The Gift of True Friendship

Reading: Job 6:14-23; Pro 17:17; Gal 6:2

Devotional: Job's friends came to comfort but delivered condemnation instead. Their theological correctness lacked compassion, leaving Job more isolated than before. True friendship shows mercy to those who are suffering, not judgment. When someone is drowning in pain, they need a lifeline, not a lecture. God calls us to bear one another's burdens with gentleness and love. Before offering advice, offer your presence. Before diagnosing someone's sin, demonstrate Christ's compassion.

Today, consider how you respond to others in crisis. Are you like Job's friends, quick to explain and correct? Or are you extending the loyal love that reflects God's heart? Be the friend you would need in your darkest hour.

Day 4: God's Intimate Involvement**Reading: Job 7:17-21; Psa 139:1-18**

Devotional: Job questioned why God would bother with humanity, yet his question revealed a profound truth: God is intimately involved in our lives. Unlike the distant deities of ancient religions, our God knows every detail of our existence. He sees you in your suffering, counts your sleepless nights, and collects your tears. This divine attention is not surveillance but love. While Job struggled to understand God's purposes, he never doubted God's presence. Psalm 139 celebrates this beautiful reality—you cannot escape God's awareness because you cannot escape His love.

Today, rest in knowing that the Creator of the universe cares deeply about your circumstances. You matter to God, and nothing in your life is insignificant to Him.

Day 5: Grace, Not Works**Reading: Job 7:1-6; Eph 2:8-10; Heb 11:6**

Devotional: Job's greatest confusion stemmed from a works-based understanding of his relationship with God. He had done everything right, yet everything went wrong. This tension reveals a fundamental truth we must embrace: our standing with God is founded on His grace, not our performance. While Job lacked the full revelation of the gospel, we have been given the glorious truth that salvation is a gift, not a wage. This doesn't mean our faithfulness is meaningless—it means our faithfulness flows from gratitude, not fear.

Today, release the exhausting burden of earning God's favor. You already have it through Christ. Let your obedience spring from love, not anxiety. Trust that God is faithful even when circumstances suggest otherwise.

Small Group Study Guide

Job 6:1-7:21

Job's Response to Eliphaz (and friends)

Opening Prayer: Begin your time together by asking God to give you wisdom, compassion, and openness as you discuss Job's suffering and faithfulness.

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

1. God is worthy of our trust—even when life makes no sense. Job didn't have all the answers, but he refused to abandon God.
2. Suffering people need compassion, not correction. Before offering advice, offer presence, listening, and love.
3. Our relationship with God is founded on His grace, not our works. Job (and his friends) operated from a works-based theology. We have the blessing of knowing we're saved by grace through faith.
4. Honest lament is biblical; God can handle our questions. But we must come with humility, recognizing God's sovereignty.
5. We don't see the full picture. Like Job, we don't know everything happening in our lives—which is why faith and trust are essential.

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

1. Personal Anguish and The Right to Complain: Job feels he has a right to complain about his circumstances (6:5). Have you ever felt this way? How do you balance honest lament with trusting God? The sermon mentions that God will later disagree with Job's "right to complain." What's the difference between honest lament (like in the Psalms) and sinful complaining?
2. Desiring Death and Hopelessness: Job wishes for death yet refuses to forsake God (6:8-10). What does this tension teach us about faith in dark times? When have you experienced circumstances that made no sense, yet you chose to hold onto God anyway?
3. Limited Control: Job asks rhetorical questions about his powerlessness (6:11-13). How does acknowledging our lack of control lead us either toward God or away from Him?

4. What Job Needed vs. What He Got: Job needed "loyalty, mercy, kindness, and compassion" but received condemnation instead. Think of a time when you were hurting—what kind of support helped most? What made things worse? How can we avoid being "Job's friends" to people in our lives who are suffering?
5. The Importance of Listening: Job's friends weren't truly listening; they presumed his guilt. Why is listening—without jumping to conclusions—so crucial when someone is suffering? What practical steps can we take to become better listeners?
6. Protecting Our Testimony: Job recognizes his integrity and testimony of God are at stake (6:28-30). How does our response to suffering affect our witness to others?
7. The Futility and Purpose Tension: Job describes his life as futile and full of sleepless, painful nights (7:1-6). Yet the sermon reminds us that Job's story has blessed over 100 generations. How does this eternal perspective change how we view our current struggles?
8. God's Intimate Involvement: Job believes God is intimately involved in human lives, even when he doesn't understand why (7:7-21). How does believing in God's sovereignty comfort you? How does it challenge you?
9. Wrong Theology in Crisis: Job shows some theological errors (denying resurrection, questioning why God bothers with people). Why do you think suffering sometimes distorts our theology? How can community help us maintain truth during trials?

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

1. Practice Lament Prayer: Bring an honest struggle to God without demanding answers, but affirming His character and trustworthiness.
2. Reach Out to Someone Who is Suffering: Instead of offering advice or explanations, simply listen and offer compassionate presence.
3. Memorize a Verse About God's Faithfulness to anchor yourself when circumstances don't make sense (suggestions: Proverbs 3:5-6, Romans 8:28, Lamentations 3:22-23).

4. Journal about a past trial. Reflect on how God was faithful even when you couldn't see it at the time. How does this build your trust for current or future challenges?
5. Examine your theology of suffering. Are you operating from a "works-based" understanding (good behavior = good circumstances)? How does the gospel reshape this?

Closing Prayer Points:

- Thank God for approving and trusting us with the Gospel
- Pray for courage to live lives worthy of our calling
- Ask for the Holy Spirit's power to transform our motivations, conduct, and character
- Pray for opportunities to "be" the church this week
- Intercede for those in the group facing persecution, difficulty, or spiritual warfare

Discussion Questions

Job 6:1-7:21

Job's Response to Eliphaz (and friends)

1. Job felt he had the right to complain about his circumstances, yet God later disagrees with this perspective. How do we discern the difference between honest lament and inappropriate complaint in our relationship with God?
2. Job's friends came to help but ended up condemning him instead of offering comfort. When have you experienced or witnessed well-intentioned counsel that missed the mark, and what does true compassionate presence look like in times of suffering?
3. Despite his overwhelming pain and confusion, Job refused to forsake God even when his circumstances made no sense. What sustains faith when God seems silent and our suffering appears undeserved?
4. The sermon emphasizes that Job, like us, did not know all that was happening behind the scenes in his life. How does this reality challenge or comfort you when facing unexplainable trials?
5. Job believed God was intimately involved in human lives, which contrasted with the common religions of his day. How does your understanding of God's involvement in daily life shape the way you interpret both blessings and hardships?
6. Job's friends presumed his guilt rather than truly listening to him. In what ways might we be guilty of jumping to conclusions about others' struggles instead of offering genuine empathy and understanding?
7. The passage reveals Job had some wrong theology, including denying the resurrection. How can we hold space for honest wrestling with God even when our understanding is incomplete or flawed?
8. Job operated under a works-based understanding of his relationship with God, expecting blessing for faithfulness. How does grace-based theology transform our expectations and responses to suffering differently than a merit-based approach?
9. Job longed for vindication and questioned why God would bother with humanity while simultaneously believing mankind is unworthy of God's attention. How do you reconcile human unworthiness with divine intimacy in your own spiritual life?
10. The sermon concludes that God is worthy of our trust and we should be grateful our relationship with Him is founded on grace rather than works. What practical steps can we take to root our identity more deeply in God's grace during seasons of trial?

Dinner Conversation Starters

Job 6:1-7:21

Job's Response to Eliphaz (and friends)

1. When Life Feels Unfair

Job was suffering terribly even though he hadn't done anything specific to "deserve" it. When have you felt like life was really unfair? In those moments, did you feel more like running to God or away from Him? Why? How can we help each other remember God is still trustworthy when life doesn't make sense?

2. Listening Like Real Friends

Job's friends showed up, but instead of comforting him, they judged him. What's the difference between comforting someone and correcting them? Have you ever felt misunderstood when you were hurting? What helped? How can we become better listeners when someone in our family is going through a hard time?

3. Being Honest With God

Job was very honest with God about his pain, confusion, and even his desire to die. Do you think it's okay to tell God when you're angry, confused, or hurting? Why or why not? Is there something you're struggling with right now that you'd feel safe talking to God about? How can we make our home a place where it's safe to be honest about our feelings?

4. What We Don't See

Job didn't know about the spiritual reality behind his suffering, but God did. How does it change things to remember that there may be parts of our story we don't see yet? Can you think of a time when something hard later turned out to bring some good? How can we trust God's bigger picture, even when we only see a small part?

5. Grace, Not Performance

Job wrestled with a "works-based" view of God—feeling like good behavior should guarantee good circumstances. Do you ever feel like God will only love you if you "do everything right"? What's the difference between trying to earn God's love and receiving His grace? How would our attitudes change—toward God and each other—if we really believed His love isn't based on our performance?

Family Conversation Guide for Children & Early Teens

Job 6:1-7:21

Job's Response to Eliphaz (and friends)

AGES 5-7: SIMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Learning to Be a Kind Friend (Not Like Job's Friends)**: Help young children see the difference between helping and hurting with their words.

Discussion Questions:

- a. "If your friend was crying on the playground, what could you say to help them feel better?"
 - b. "Job's friends said mean, blaming things. What are kind words we can use instead when someone is sad?"
 - c. "What are some ways we can show we care—like a hug, sitting next to them, or drawing them a picture?"
2. **Telling God (and Parents) How We Feel**: Reinforce that it is okay to be sad, confused, or upset and to bring those feelings to God and to safe adults.

Discussion Questions:

- a. "When you feel sad or left out, who can you talk to?"
 - b. "Job told God when he was really sad and hurting. What could you say to God when you feel that way?"
 - c. "How can Mommy/Daddy help you when you're upset? What do you like us to do—listen, hug, pray with you?"
3. **Being Careful with Our Words (In Person and Online)**: Introduce the idea that words can hurt or help—whether said out loud or sent as messages (texts, voice chats, kids' apps).

Discussion Questions:

- a. "If we were about to send a message to a friend, what should we ask ourselves first?"
- b. "How do you feel when someone says something mean to you? Do you think others feel the same way if we say something mean?"
- c. "Can you think of some 'Job's friends words' (hurtful) and some 'Jesus words' (kind) we should choose instead?"

AGES 8-12: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Being a Safe Friend at School, on Teams, and in Group Chats**: Teach kids to be compassionate listeners—like the friend Job needed, not the friends he had.

Discussion Questions:

- a. “When someone in your group is having a hard time, are people more likely to help or to blame? What do you usually see?”
 - b. “How could you be different from Job’s friends in your friend group or chat group?”
 - c. “If a friend told you, ‘I’m really having a bad day,’ what are three good questions you could ask to listen better?”
2. **Trusting God When Things Feel Unfair**: Connect Job’s confusion and hurt to kids’ experiences of unfairness and disappointment.

Discussion Questions:

- a. “Can you share a time when something felt really unfair or confusing?”
 - b. “Job didn’t understand why life was so hard, but he still wouldn’t walk away from God. How might you trust God when something feels unfair at school or online?”
 - c. “What’s one sentence prayer you could pray when things don’t make sense (for example, ‘God, I don’t understand, but I want to trust You’)?”
3. **Using Technology with Grace, Not Judgment**: Link Job’s judgmental friends to how kids may judge others quickly in digital spaces (texts, social media comments, group chats, gaming).

Discussion Questions:

- a. “Have you ever seen someone get ‘piled on’ in a group text, game chat, or comment section?”
- b. “How were those people acting like Job’s friends—quick to blame or shame?”
- c. “What’s one kind thing you could do in that moment—say something kind, change the subject, or message the person privately to check on them?”
- d. “If you are tempted to type something mean or sarcastic, what could you do instead to show God’s grace?”

AGES 11-15: DEEPENING THE CONNECTION APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Being Honest About Pain Without Giving Up on God**: Encourage teens to bring their real emotions to God, like Job did, instead of shutting down or walking away.

Discussion Questions:

- a. “What kinds of things make people your age feel like Job—hopeless, misunderstood, or done?”
- b. “Job was brutally honest with God, but he didn’t completely abandon his faith. What does that teach you about how we can pray when we’re hurting?”
- c. “If you felt like God was silent, what would you do—pull away from Him, push harder in prayer, or something else? Why?”

- d. “How can we, as a family, create space for you to be honest and wrestle with hard questions, without shutting you down?”
2. **Responding to Judgment and Pressure in Social and Digital Spaces**: Connect the judgment of Job’s friends to peer pressure, cancel culture, and online shaming.

Discussion Questions:

- a. “Where do you see people acting like Job’s friends today—assuming someone must be ‘bad’ and deserving of what they’re going through?”
 - b. “How does social media or group chats make it easier to judge people without knowing their whole story?”
 - c. “If you are in a group chat where everyone is roasting or canceling someone, what are your options? What would it look like to be a ‘grace’ person in that space?”
 - d. “How does remembering that we don’t see everything (like Job didn’t see his whole story) help us be slower to judge others?”
3. **Shifting from “I Have to Earn It” to “God Is Gracious”**: Help teens see the difference between a performance-based identity (with God and with peers) and living from grace.

Discussion Questions:

- a. “In what areas of your life do you feel like you’re constantly being judged or measured—grades, sports, looks, online image?”
- b. “Job wrestled with thinking good behavior should mean good circumstances. How do you see that same thinking in yourself or your friends (for example, ‘If I’m good, God owes me a good life’ or ‘If I mess up, God is done with me’)? ”
- c. “How is God’s grace different from the way people treat each other online—in terms of second chances, forgiveness, and worth?”
- d. “If you deeply believed that God loves you even when you fail, how might that change the way you use social media or respond to criticism?”

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 6:1-7:21

Job's Response to Eliphaz (and friends)

a. When Life Feels Unfair and God Feels Silent

Bible Reference: Job 6:2–4; Job 7:11 (Psalm 42:3–5; 1 Peter 5:7 as support)

Application: It's biblical to be honest with God about your pain, confusion, and doubts—without walking away from Him. You don't have to fake being "okay" to be a faithful Christian.

Scenario: You're in a group chat where people start roasting someone who's not there, sharing screenshots and memes making fun of them. You know it's wrong, but everyone else is reacting with laughing emojis and "L" comments. You feel the pull to join in so you don't look boring or "too serious."

Discussion Questions:

- a. What would it look like, practically, to "please God, not people" in that moment?
- b. What is one sentence you could type that would honor God without being self-righteous or harsh?
- c. How might remembering "I'm already approved by God" help you handle the fear of being excluded or mocked?

b. Resisting Peer Pressure in Group Settings

Bible Reference: Luke 9:23 – "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

1 Thessalonians 2:2 – "...we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict."

Application: Following Jesus will cost you something: comfort, popularity, sometimes relationships. Choosing purity, honesty, and Christlike love means sometimes saying "no" to what everyone else says "yes" to.

Scenario: You're talking to someone you like. They begin asking for nudes or pushing sexual jokes and comments in DMs. They say, "If you really liked me, you'd trust me," and add that "everyone does it" and "it's private."

Discussion Questions:

- a. How does "taking up your cross" apply when you're pressured to go against God's standards in a relationship?

- b. What boundaries would honor God with your body and your digital behavior (pics, messages, flirting)?
- c. If you lost this relationship because you honored Jesus, would it be worth it in light of eternity? Why?

c. No Flattery, No Fake Persona

Bible Reference: 1 Thessalonians 2:5 – “For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness...”

Ephesians 4:25 – “Therefore, putting away lying, ‘Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor...’”

Application: Don’t present a fake self to gain followers or acceptance. No “flattery” means you’re not manipulating people with your words or persona—online or offline. Your content, comments, and conversations should reflect honesty and integrity.

Scenario: On Instagram, TikTok, or Snapchat, you’re tempted to post thirst traps, exaggerate your lifestyle, or craft a persona that isn’t really you, just to grow your account or impress a certain group.

Discussion Questions:

- a. In what ways can social media tempt you to “use flattering words” or a “cloak” to get attention?
- b. How can you tell if your online self is becoming more about image than about truth?
- c. What would it look like for your digital presence to match who you actually are in Christ?

d. Being the Church Not Just Doing Church

Bible Reference: 1 Thessalonians 2:7–8 – “...we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children... we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives...”

John 13:35 – “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Application: You’re not called just to attend church; you’re called to “be the church” in your friend groups, teams, and online spaces—showing real love, gentleness, and sacrifice.

Scenario: At school or on your team, there’s that one person everyone sees as “weird” or “annoying.” They’re always alone at lunch and rarely invited into group hangouts or Discord calls. Being seen with them might cost you social capital.

Discussion Questions:

- a. How could you “impart your own life” (time, attention, friendship) to someone who is usually excluded?
- b. What is one specific action—this week—that would reflect Christ’s love to that person?
- c. How might your friend group or youth group culture change if everyone decided to “be the church” instead of just blending in?

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.