

Subject: Sermon Recap: There Is No Mediator - Part 2 (Job 9:14 - 10:22)

Dear Church Family,

We hope this note finds you well. Below is a brief recap of this past Sunday's sermon for your reflection and continued study throughout the week. For a copy of the teaching notes and a number of discipleship materials, please go [\[HERE\]](#).

Summary: The sermon explored Job's raw and anguished wrestling with God amid relentless suffering, tracing his journey from defending himself before his friends to directing his desperate plea toward God. Rooted in a works-based faith that was being dismantled by his circumstances, Job cried out for a mediator - someone to stand between him and a God he could not reach. While Job's theology was imperfect and his bitterness evident, his story holds a mirror up to our own hearts, reminding us that our righteousness is never sufficient and that the "why" questions of life reveal far more about us than they do about God. The great news for believers is that, unlike Job, we are not left without an answer to his cry for a mediator - we have one in Jesus Christ, and through Him we have access to God's throne at any hour.

Takeaways:

1. Do not forsake the One you do know for all that you do not know. Job's suffering tempted him to turn his confusion into accusation, yet even in his darkest moments he was drawn back to the truth of God's sovereignty. In our hardest seasons, clinging to what we know of God is the anchor that holds.
2. Our righteousness is never enough - only Christ's is sufficient. Job's works-based faith crumbled under the weight of his trials because it was built on the wrong foundation. We are reminded in passages such as Ephesians 2:8-9 and Romans 3:10-12 that salvation and standing before God rest entirely on grace through faith, not on our own merit.
3. Pressing into God through suffering is not weakness - it is wisdom. Job's "why" questions were not inherently wrong. The danger lies in deciding in advance that no answer God gives will be acceptable. The closing challenge of the sermon calls us to press into and press onward with God in every season, trusting that He who began a good work in us is faithful to complete it.

We encourage you to sit with these truths this week, revisit the passage in Job 9 and 10, and consider where your own heart may be asking "why" - and whether you are holding that question open before God or using it to build a case against Him.

As always, we are blessed to walk this journey of faith alongside you. - Pastor Jim

Job 8-10 – Part 2 (9:14-10:22), There is No Mediator 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. Have you ever wondered if God is listening to you? Share any wisdom you gained from your personal experience in this regard. What advice do you have for someone that says God isn't listening?
2. Why is comparing ourselves to other Christians unhealthy? How can we fall prey to doing the same even when we know its incorrect? What are the top 3-5 things you can share with a works-based Christian to help them see the grace of God correctly?
3. How many unchangeable truths can you write about God? Next consider any "why God" questions you have. Finally, how do the unchangeable truths about God inform your "why God" questions AND your response to His answers (even if the answer is silence)?

Job 8-10 – Part 2 (9:14-10:22)

There is No Mediator

I. Introduction: First Friends, Then God

II. Job 9:14-20: God, Are You Listening?

- Do NOT forsake the One you do know, for all that you don't know.

III. Job 9:21-35: Can Someone, Anyone, Help?

Additional Scripture References: 1 Tim 2:5; Hebrews 8:6, 9:15, 12:24; Gal 3:19-20, 1 Jn 2:1; Rom 8:34; Jn 14:6

IV. Job 10:1-22: Job Directs His Plea to God

- Reasons why God may contend with believers includes refining them, exposing, them, to draw them into deeper dependance of God, to prove their faithfulness, and for the purpose of fulfilling His covenant promises.

Additional Scripture References: Mal 3:3, Heb 12:6; Job 40-42; Gen 32:22-32; 1 Pe 1:6-7; Hosea; Mic 6; Isa 1

V. Closing: Why God?

Slide 2

There is No Mediator – Part 2 (9:14 – 10:22)

Job 8-10

I. Introduction: First Friends, Then God

1. Today, we are picking up in verse 14 of Job, chapter 9. Here, Job continues his full throated defense of himself in response to the accusations of his friends, before turning his attention more fully back to God in chapter 10.

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II. Job 9:14-20: God, Are You Listening?

1. Summing up Job's mindset in the first 13 verses of this chapter, we could say 'God is God and He is great.' With this summary as a foundation, Job – a man whose identity had been firmly rooted in God – is wrestling with his *not* understanding of 'why' his life has turned to shambles despite his faith in God.
2. Verses 14 and 20 serve as bookends reflecting Job's [right] sense of unworthiness and a clear understanding that no matter his words, God is greater and far more righteous than he. Job, of himself, is NOT worthy of being in relationship with God.
3. V15 is an aha moment. Being unworthy is NOT the end of the story. Our circumstances do not imprison us nor define us for great is God's mercy – a mercy that somehow, somehow Job knows to cry out from within the gloomy depths of his unrelenting challenges.
4. V16-18 reveal that Job's wrestling with grasping how and why life is working out the way it is...the more he speaks, the more we see his focus is on himself. 'God's not listening. God crushes, wounds, and causes me to be bitter – with the 'without cause' in v17 being a not-so-veiled accusation that God is treating Job unjustly'.

5. In v19-20, in a momentary break from his own 'pity-party', Job, even in all of his humanness, is brought back to the simple truth that God is sovereign and righteous...in his humanness, he cannot understand the chaos and hurt in his life as his works-based understanding of and relationship with God is NOT right. What we are witnessing in the midst of his hardships is captured in:

Don't forsake the One you do know, for all that you don't know.

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III. Job 9:21-35: Can Someone, Anyone, Help?

1. With his works-based faith foundation, it is no surprise that confusion and hurt is clouding Job's conception of God. He is as righteous as anyone and more righteous than most, but the hits keep on coming – Job despises his life.
2. His life had blessing upon blessing for which he credited not just God, but also his faith in God. It was this world-view that was being shattered - He had been as righteous as he knew how and, in his mind, received God's blessings only to learn it was still not enough. In this, we are brought the stark truth that our righteous is also NOT enough...it is only the righteousness of Christ that is sufficient.
3. Other focal points in these verses include:
 - A. Job accusing God of callousness in laughing at the plight of the innocent in v23 along with not being just in v24.
 - B. There is a strong theme of "if the innocent can't win with you God, who can" in verses 25-35. Answer: The repentant.
 - C. In verses 25-28, Job makes clear he is really trying. He has a great fear of God (good), but wrongly believed that God has wrongly determined him to be guilty and is, in fact, the source of his trials. This acknowledges God's sovereignty (good) while saying God is the source of evil (bad).

- D. In v29-31, Job's clear thought is that it matters not what he does, God wants more. *He seems to get, but not grasp, that he does NOT measure up* – especially as he tries to understand his suffering the light of those far less righteous not suffering worse than he.
- E. As we come to the end of chapter 9, v32-35, in Job's fear and dread, he rightly desires a mediator to intercede for him with God. *While right that he (and we) need a mediator, his works-based God's-not-fair reasoning is wrong.*
- 4. It's here that I want to stop and note that God did not answer Job's plea for a mediator here. *The same is not true for us for the gospel is NOT veiled and we can know our mediator...for you see:*
 - A. we know salvation is by grace through faith and not via works (Eph 2:8-9);
 - B. none is righteous, but Jesus (Ro 3:10-12); and
 - C. from Scriptures like **1 Tim 2:5; Hebrews 8:6, 9:15, 12:24; Gal 3:19-20, 1 Jn 2:1; Rom 8:34; Jn 14:6**, that we actually have a mediator – Jesus. *Indeed, God has granted His children 24x7 access to His throne room* (Heb 4:16).

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IV. Job 10:1-22: Job Directs His Plea to God

- 1. In verses 1-7, Job's main focus is asking God to help him make sense of his loathsome life and unbearable trials at God's hands. *In particular, through a series of rhetorical questions highlighting the vast differences between God and man, Job is asking "why God?"...Why, with all that you are and all that your do, why are you so intent of destroying me?"*
 - A. In v2, he demands that God show him why He is contending with Him...to contend means to strive against, quarrel, or attack Job. *Scripture shares several reasons as to why God contends with believers including* (a) to refine, not destroy (Mal 3:3; Heb

12:6), (b) to expose what we won't face ourselves (Job 40-42), (c) to draw the believer into deeper dependence (Gen 32:22-32), to prove a believers faithfulness (1 Pet 1:6-7), and for the purpose of fulfilling His covenant faithfulness...even when a believer has wandered away (Hosea, Mic 6, Isa 1).

B. One last little tidbit, in v7 Job again notes that he needs help. For those of you interested in exploring little rabbit trails, consider doing a study identifying all the terms Job uses to describe the helper he needs...terms like arbiter, witness, intercessor, mediator, redeemer, advocate, and friend.

2. In Vs8-12, the question of the day remains "why God?". You have created me and shown me great favor and yet now you destroy me. In these verses, we note again Job is NOT questioning God's right or power to punish him. Rather, Job just wants to know why.
3. In Vs13-17, Job's major emphasis is his not understanding...this time not understanding why God, the sovereign One has hidden His real motive.
4. In Vs18-22: DEATH, DISORDER, & DARKNESS, marking the futility he feels, are all in view. From wishing his live away to demanding God just leave him alone that he may find some comfort in death...Job has no hope and welcomes death.

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V. Closing: Why God?

1. In our passage today Job's repeated focus on 'Why God?' comes through loud and clear. Why all these trials? Why are you punishing me? Why will you not answer me? Why will you not help me? These are but a few of the examples of the 'why' questions posed; questions revealing far more about Job's heart than about God.

To be sure, Job does NOT understand why his life is in total confusion and chaos along with becoming one long season of suffering. In our humanness, we can relate with his brokenness,

bitterness, and desperation. As we are drawn into the story, we may well find ourselves saying Job wasn't right to have a bitter, blaming heart toward God, BUT 'how much can one person take' is also echoing in our hearts and minds.

Furthermore, while we know in our heads that Job does NOT need to defend himself against God, we understand how his works-based faith got him to this point. Some of the world's veiled complaints through questions such as "what kind of a good God would allow this much suffering?" may even leave us wondering the same.

If I may, as with Job, your questions are not wrong nor unhealthy. Yet, I might ask, if you have already determined the "right" answer and your heart will be turned from God for any other? In asking 'why', God may or may not give us the answer we are looking for, but does that make Him any less worthy of our surrender, worship, and love? Because we, like Job, may not understand the purposes of the great hardships of this life, does it make sense to turn away from the sovereign Lord that loves and is for us?

In what is one of the main conclusions of the book of Job, we are to press into and press onward with God in all seasons of life knowing He (as the author and finisher of our faith) is trustworthy and faithful to complete what He has started in you.

[Prayer]

5-Day Devotional

Job 8-10

There is No Mediator - Part 2

Day 1: The God Who Is Greater Than Our Circumstances

Reading: Job 9:14-20

Devotional: Job stood in the wreckage of his life and still acknowledged that God is sovereign and righteous. His pain did not erase his theology, even when it clouded it. There is a profound lesson here: the greatness of God does not shrink when our suffering grows. Job understood his own unworthiness before God, and yet that unworthiness was not the final word. The same is true for you. When life crumbles around you, the character of God remains unchanged. Do not forsake the One you do know for all that you do not know.

In what areas of your life are you allowing your circumstances to define your view of God rather than allowing God to define your circumstances? Write down three unchanging truths about God's character and place them somewhere visible this week.

When doubt rises, return to what you know to be true rather than what you feel to be true.

Day 2: The Mediator We Could Not Find for Ourselves

Reading: 1 Tim 2:5; He 4:14-16; Ro8:34

Devotional: In the depths of his anguish, Job cried out for a mediator, someone who could stand between him and God and make things right. It was a desperate, aching prayer born out of genuine need. What Job longed for but could not see, we now possess fully and freely in Jesus Christ. The gospel is not veiled. We have a mediator who is both fully God and fully man, who intercedes for us continually, and who has opened the throne room of God to us at all times. The longing Job felt has been answered on our behalf.

Do you approach God as someone who has full access to His presence through Christ, or do you still live as though the door is closed to you? Set aside intentional time in prayer today, entering God's presence not on the basis of your own righteousness but on the finished work of Jesus. Speak to God with the confidence that Hebrews 4:16 describes, approaching the throne of grace boldly.

Day 3: When Righteousness Is Not Enough
Reading: Eph 2:8-9; Ro 3:10-12; Job 9:21-31

Devotional: Job was, by every human measure, a righteous man. And still it was not enough. His suffering exposed a painful truth that his works-based understanding of God could not sustain him through the storm. This is not a failure unique to Job. Every person who has ever tried to earn God's favor through moral living will eventually arrive at the same wall. Our righteousness is not sufficient. It never was. Only the righteousness of Christ is enough, and it is offered freely to those who trust in Him. This is not a reason for despair but for the deepest kind of relief.

Are there areas where you are still operating under the assumption that your good behavior obligates God to bless you or protect you from hardship? Spend time meditating on the truth that salvation is by grace through faith and not by works.

Confess any area where you have been keeping a mental ledger with God, and rest in the sufficiency of what Christ has already done.

Day 4: Why God Contends With His Own
Reading: Mal3:3; He 12:5-11; Job 10:1-12

Devotional: Job demanded to know why God was striving against him. The question was honest and the pain behind it was real. Yet Scripture reveals that when God contends with His children, His purposes are never arbitrary or cruel. He refines rather than destroys. He exposes what we will not face on our own. He draws us into deeper dependence and proves the genuineness of our faith. The same hands that formed Job, that formed you, have not abandoned their work. The trial you are walking through may be the very instrument God is using to make you more fully into who He created you to be.

Looking back on a past season of suffering, can you identify any ways in which God was refining, deepening, or redirecting you through that difficulty? Journal about a current or recent hardship and write out at least two possible redemptive purposes God might have in allowing it. Hold those possibilities before Him in prayer, asking for the grace to trust His process even without full understanding.

Day 5: Pressing Onward When There Are No Answers
Reading: Job 10:18-22; Heb 12:1-2; 1 Pe 1:6-7

Devotional: Job, in his darkest hour, wished he had never been born. The darkness felt total and the silence of God felt unbearable. Yet the book of Job does not end there, and neither does yours. The call of Scripture is not to have every question answered before you continue walking with God. It is to press into and press onward with the God who is both the author and the finisher of your faith. He is trustworthy in the seasons

you understand and in the seasons you do not. The suffering is real, but so is His faithfulness, and His faithfulness will outlast every trial.

Is there a "why" question you have been holding onto that has become a barrier between you and full surrender to God? What would it look like to release that question into His hands? Write a brief prayer of surrender, acknowledging what you do not understand while affirming what you do know about God's character. Commit to pressing forward in faith this week, not because all your questions are answered, but because the One who holds the answers is worthy of your trust.

Small Group Study Guide

Job 8-10

There is No Mediator - Part 2

Opening Prayer: Pray that the Lord would open your eyes to see and understand His word as you discuss the sermon.

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

1. Unworthiness is not the end of the story. Job rightly understood his own unworthiness before God, but mercy is available even in the darkest depths of suffering. Our circumstances do not imprison us or define us.
2. A works-based faith will eventually crack under the weight of real suffering. Job's confusion was rooted in a transactional view of God — faithfulness in, blessing out. When that equation broke down, so did his understanding of who God is. Our righteousness is never enough; only the righteousness of Christ is sufficient.
3. We have the Mediator Job was crying out for. Job longed for someone to stand between him and God. The gospel answers that longing directly. Through Jesus Christ, believers have 24/7 access to the throne of God.
4. "Why, God?" reveals more about our hearts than about God. Job's repeated "why" questions exposed his assumptions, his works-based reasoning, and the limits of his understanding — not any failure or injustice on God's part.
5. Press into God in every season. The conclusion the book of Job moves toward is not explanation but trust. God is the author and finisher of our faith, and He is trustworthy and faithful to complete what He has started.

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

1. Think of a time when life did not go the way you expected, especially when you felt you were doing everything right. How did that experience affect your view of God?
2. Job understood his unworthiness before God and yet still cried out for mercy. What does that tension tell us about the nature of faith in hard seasons?

3. The sermon described verse 15 as an "aha moment" — being unworthy is not the end of the story. How does knowing God's mercy is available change the way you approach Him in your lowest moments?
4. The sermon summarized a key principle as: "Don't forsake the One you do know, for all that you don't know." What does that look like practically in the middle of confusion or suffering?
5. Job's works-based faith led him to believe that his righteousness should have produced blessing. Where do you see this kind of thinking show up in modern Christianity — or in your own heart?
6. Job rightly desired a mediator but for the wrong reasons. How does knowing Jesus as our Mediator change both our posture before God and our expectations of Him? Consider passages like 1 Timothy 2:5 and Hebrews 4:16.
7. The sermon noted that God did not answer Job's plea for a mediator in this passage, but that the same is not true for us. How should the clarity of the gospel shape the way we respond to suffering compared to how Job responded?
8. Job was not questioning God's right to act — he simply wanted to know why. Is there a difference between questioning God's character and asking God for understanding? How do we keep that distinction clear in our own prayers?
9. The sermon lists several reasons Scripture gives for why God contends with believers — to refine, to expose what we won't face ourselves, to draw us into deeper dependence, to prove faithfulness, and to fulfill His covenant. Which of these resonates most with a current or past season of your life? Why?
10. Job's closing words in chapter 10 are filled with death, disorder, and darkness. He had no hope and welcomed death. What does it look like to walk alongside someone in your community who is in that kind of place?

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

1. Audit your faith foundation. Take time this week to honestly examine whether your relationship with God has transactional elements — places where you expect blessing in exchange for obedience. Bring those assumptions before God in prayer and ask Him to replace them with grace-rooted faith.
2. Sit with the Mediator you have. Job longed for someone to stand between him and God. You have that in Jesus. Set aside intentional time this week to come

before God's throne through prayer, not because you have earned access, but because Christ has granted it.

3. Identify your "why" questions. Write down the "why" questions you are currently carrying. Then, rather than demanding answers, offer each one to God as an act of surrender, trusting that He is sovereign even over what you do not understand.
4. Walk alongside someone in suffering. Job's friends ultimately failed him. Think of someone in your life who is in a season of suffering. Commit to showing up for them this week — not with answers, but with presence.
5. Study the terms Job uses for the helper he needs. The sermon suggests a meaningful personal study: trace through the book of Job and identify every term Job uses to describe the helper he is looking for — arbiter, witness, intercessor, mediator, redeemer, advocate, and friend. Then trace how Jesus fulfills each one.

Closing Prayer:

Close your group time by praying together. Invite members to bring their own "why" questions before God honestly, surrendering them in trust to the One who is sovereign, faithful, and for His people. Thank God for the Mediator He has provided in Jesus Christ and for the access believers have to His throne.

Discussion Questions

Job 8-10

There is No Mediator - Part 2

1. Job wrestles with feeling unworthy of God's presence yet still cries out for mercy -- in what ways does your own sense of unworthiness either drive you toward God or cause you to pull away from Him, and what does that reveal about your understanding of grace?
2. The sermon describes Job's faith as 'works-based,' meaning he believed his righteous living entitled him to God's blessing -- in what subtle ways might your own relationship with God reflect a similar transactional mindset?
3. Job's suffering did not shake his acknowledgment of God's sovereignty, but it did distort his view of God's character -- how do your hardest seasons of life tend to affect not just your trust in God but your perception of who God actually is?
4. The sermon highlights the truth from Ephesians 2:8-9 and Romans 3:10-12 that no human righteousness is sufficient before God -- how does the reality that only Christ's righteousness is enough change the way you approach both your successes and your failures?
5. Job longed for a mediator to stand between him and God, and the sermon points out that believers already have one in Jesus Christ, with 24/7 access to God's throne -- how often does your prayer life actually reflect the confidence that kind of access should produce?
6. The sermon lists several reasons Scripture gives for why God contends with believers, including refinement, deeper dependence, and proving faithfulness -- when you look back on your own seasons of suffering, which of these purposes do you find most difficult to accept, and why?
7. Job's repeated 'why' questions revealed more about the condition of his heart than about the character of God -- when you bring your own 'why' questions to God, are you genuinely seeking understanding, or have you already decided what the answer must be?
8. The sermon closes with the challenge 'Don't forsake the One you do know, for all that you don't know' -- what specific unknowns in your life right now are most tempting you to loosen your grip on what you do know to be true about God?
9. Job reached a point of welcoming death as an escape from his suffering, and the sermon notes he had lost all hope -- how does the presence of a known mediator in

Jesus Christ reframe what hopelessness should look like for a believer compared to what Job experienced?

10. The sermon asks whether God's failure to give us the answer we want in our suffering makes Him any less worthy of our surrender, worship, and love -- what would it look like practically for you to press into God rather than away from Him during a season when He feels silent or distant?

Dinner Conversation Starters

Job 8-10

There is No Mediator - Part 2

1. “Why God?” Questions

Job asked God honest questions in his suffering. What is one “why” question you’ve had for God, either recently or in the past? How can we bring those questions to Him without turning away from Him?

2. Holding On When We Don’t Understand

The sermon reminded us: “Don’t forsake the One you do know, for all that you don’t know.” What are some things we know are true about God, even when life feels confusing or painful?

3. Needing a Mediator

Job longed for someone to stand between him and God. We know that Jesus is our Mediator. What does it mean to you that Jesus speaks for us, helps us, and gives us access to God?

4. Works-Based Thinking

Job struggled because he believed his righteousness should protect him from suffering. How can we sometimes fall into thinking, “If I do good things, God should give me an easy life”? Why is the gospel better than that?

5. Pressing Into God in Hard Seasons

When life is hard, people often either pull away from God or press closer to Him. What are some practical ways our family can press into God during difficult seasons?

Family Conversation Guide for Children & Early Teens

Job 8-10

There is No Mediator - Part 2

AGES 5-7: SIMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE APPLICATION POINTS

1. **When Friends Are Unkind, God Still Hears Me**: Kids this age may feel confused when a friend excludes them, says something mean, or won't share. Help them learn that they can tell God when they are sad or upset, just like Job did, while still remembering that God is good.

Discussion Questions:

- (a) How would that make you feel?
 - (b) What could you say to God if your feelings were hurt?
 - (c) What do we know is true about God, even when friends are unkind? What is a kind way you could respond?
2. **I Don't Have to Be Perfect for God to Love Me**: Job struggled with thinking his goodness should protect him from suffering. Young kids can begin learning that God does not love them because they are "good enough." God loves His children because He is gracious.

Discussion Questions:

- (a) Does God stop loving us when we make a wrong choice?
 - (b) What should we do when we sin or disobey?
 - (c) Who helps us come to God when we need forgiveness?
 - (d) How does Jesus show us that God loves us?
3. **Ask for Help Instead of Hiding**: Job knew he needed help. Kids ages 5–7 need to learn that when they feel scared, sad, or confused, they can go to God and also talk to trusted adults.

Discussion Questions:

- (a) What should you do if you see something that makes you feel scared or confused?
- (b) Who are the safe adults you can talk to?
- (c) Can you tell God about scary things?
- (d) What can our family do to help keep screens safe?

AGES 8-12: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Don't Decide God Is Bad Just Because Life Feels Bad**: Kids in this age range are very aware of fairness. They may wonder why good people have hard days or why

unkind people seem popular. Help them separate hard circumstances from false conclusions about God.

Discussion Questions:

- (a) Why does that feel unfair?
- (b) What are some wrong thoughts we might be tempted to believe about God in that moment?
- (c) What do we know is true about God even when life is unfair?
- (d) How can we do what is right even when others do not?

2. **Your Worth Is Not Based on Being the “Best”**: Job’s struggle shows the danger of a works-based mindset. Kids may think their value comes from grades, sports, behavior, popularity, or being liked. Remind them that our righteousness is not enough; we need Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

- (a) What are some things kids your age feel pressure to be good at?
- (b) Do achievements make God love us more?
- (c) How does Jesus give us an identity that is stronger than popularity or success?
- (d) How can our family celebrate faithfulness, not just winning?

3. **Bring Digital Questions Into the Light**: Job brought his confusion and pain into words. Kids need to learn that questions, temptations, and mistakes in digital spaces should not be hidden. They can ask for help without fear.

Discussion Questions:

- (a) What makes group chats or online games hard sometimes?
- (b) Why might someone be afraid to tell a parent about something they saw online?
- (c) How can we respond when people are cruel online?
- (d) What does trusting God look like in digital spaces?

AGES 11-15: DEEPENING THE CONNECTION APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Bring Honest Questions to God Without Walking Away**: Preteens and teens often wrestle deeply with suffering, hypocrisy, anxiety, loneliness, and unanswered prayer. Job shows us that honest questions are not automatically wrong, but bitterness and accusations can pull our hearts away from God.

Discussion Questions:

- (a) What is the difference between asking God an honest question and accusing God of being wrong?
- (b) Have you ever felt like God was silent?
- (c) What truths about God are hardest to believe when life hurts?
- (d) How can we “press into God” even when we do not understand?

2. **Don't Build Your Faith on a Deal with God**: Job's suffering exposed a works-based view of God: "If I do right, God should give me blessing." Teens may think, "I prayed, obeyed, served, or stayed pure—so why is life still hard?" Help them see that Christianity is not a transaction; it is a relationship built on grace.

Discussion Questions:

- (a) Have you ever felt like God "owed" you a better outcome because you did the right thing?
 - (b) Why is it dangerous to treat faith like a contract?
 - (c) How does the gospel free us from having to earn God's love?
 - (d) What does faithfulness look like when obedience does not lead to immediate reward?
3. **Let Jesus Be Your Mediator, Not Your Image**: Job longed for someone to stand between him and God. Teens often look for "mediators" in the wrong places: approval, followers, relationships, appearance, achievements, or online identity. Jesus alone gives us access to God and a secure identity.

Discussion Questions:

- (a) What are some ways people try to prove they are valuable online?
- (b) How can social media make us feel like we are never enough?
- (c) What does it mean that Jesus stands for us before God?
- (d) How would your online choices change if your identity was secure in Christ?

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 8-10

There is No Mediator - Part 2

1. Bring Your “Why God?” Questions to Him Honestly

Bible Reference: Job 10:1–3, Psalm 13:1–2, Hebrews 4:16

Application: Job did not hide his pain from God. He asked hard questions, even when his heart was confused. Gen Z faces anxiety, grief, injustice, family brokenness, loneliness, and pressure to have life figured out. God is not threatened by honest questions. The danger is not asking “why?”—the danger is deciding God is not good unless He answers the way we want.

Scenario: You are in a group conversation where friends are talking about suffering, mental health, war, abuse, or tragedy. Someone says, “If God were real or good, He wouldn’t let this happen.” You feel the weight of the question too.

Discussion: How can you honestly acknowledge suffering and hard questions without concluding that God is absent, cruel, or unworthy of trust?

2. Don’t Let Pain Rewrite What You Know About God

Bible Reference: Job 9:4, 19–20, Psalm 34:18, Romans 8:28, 38–39

Application: Job knew God was powerful and righteous, but his suffering tempted him to believe God was against him. When life hurts, our emotions can start “interpreting” God for us. The sermon’s principle is important: “Don’t forsake the One you do know, for all that you don’t know.” God’s character must interpret our circumstances—not the other way around.

Scenario: You prayed for a relationship to be restored, for anxiety to go away, for your family situation to improve, or for an opportunity to work out—but nothing changed. You start thinking, “God must not care.”

Discussion: What truths about God do you need to hold onto when your circumstances make Him feel distant or unfair?

3. Stop Treating Faith Like a Transaction

Bible Reference: Job 9:21–24, Ephesians 2:8–9, Romans 3:10–12, Titus 3:5

Application: Job struggled because he believed his righteousness should have protected him from suffering. Gen Z can fall into a similar mindset: “I prayed, stayed pure, served, was kind, went to church—so why is my life still hard?” But Christianity is not a deal where good behavior guarantees an easy life. We are saved by grace, not by performance.

Scenario: You see people who mock God seem to succeed socially, financially, or romantically, while you are trying to follow Christ and still feel rejected, anxious, overlooked, or exhausted.

Discussion: Where are you tempted to believe God “owes” you a certain outcome because you have tried to do the right thing?

4. Let Jesus Be Your Mediator, Not Your Online Image

Bible Reference: Job 9:32–35, 1 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 4:14–16, 1 John 2:1

Application: Job longed for someone to stand between him and God. We have what Job was longing for: Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Advocate. But many people try to find identity and acceptance through their image—followers, likes, aesthetics, achievements, relationship status, or reputation. Jesus is the One who gives us access to God and secures our worth.

Scenario: You post something and keep checking to see who liked it, viewed it, shared it, or ignored it. Your mood changes based on the response. You feel valuable when people notice you and invisible when they don’t.

Discussion: How would your relationship with social media change if your deepest identity came from Jesus standing for you before God?

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.