



Wisdom and Whispers PT. III | Job | Mark Allen | 05.03.26

The Book of Job

Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Begin your time together by asking God to open hearts and minds to His truth and to help group members apply what they learn.

Icebreaker

Question: Share about a time when you received advice from a friend during a difficult situation. Was it helpful or unhelpful? Why?

Key Scripture Passages

- Job 1:9-22
- Job 2:7-10
- Job 19:25
- Job 38:1-4

- Job 42:5-6

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text (15-20 minutes)

1. **What was Satan's accusation against Job?** How did God respond to Satan's challenge? What does this reveal about Job's character?
2. **What were the two false assumptions Job's friends made?**
 - The innocent do not suffer
 - The wicked will not prosper

3. **What was Job's initial response to tragedy (Job 1:20-22)?** How does this compare to his wife's response? Which response do you think is more common among believers today?

Going Deeper (20-25 minutes)

4. **Pastor Mark mentioned that Job made prophetic statements about a Redeemer, mediator, witness, and advocate.** How do these Old Testament references point to Jesus? Why is this significant for us when we face suffering?
5. **Job never knew about the conversation between God and Satan.** How does this change your perspective on suffering when you don't know the "why" behind what you're experiencing?
6. **God's response to Job (chapters 38-42) was a series of questions, not explanations.** What does this teach us about:
 - God's nature?
 - Our place in the universe?
 - The complexity of life's problems?
7. **Pastor Mark stated: "Your sole purpose on earth is to worship God in spite of what might happen."** How does this challenge or encourage you? How does this differ from what culture tells us our purpose is?

Personal Application (15-20 minutes)

8. **Have you ever found yourself asking "Why, God?" during a difficult season?** What was that experience like? How did you work through it?
 9. **Pastor Mark suggested that instead of asking "Why?" we should say "Okay, Lord, I trust you."** How realistic is this for you? What would it take to get to that place of trust?
 10. **Job had to retract and repent (Job 42:5-6) for questioning God.** Is there anything you need to retract or repent of regarding how you've responded to God during hardship?
 11. **At the end, God restored Job's losses—and doubled them (except for his children, which were also doubled when you count those in heaven).** What does this tell us about:
 - God's faithfulness?
 - What matters eternally vs. what's temporary?
 - God's ability to restore?
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Key Takeaways

1. **Our purpose is worship** - We were created to worship God regardless of circumstances, not just when things are good.
 2. **Life is complex** - Simple answers don't exist for why bad things happen to good people. Some things we won't understand until we see God face to face.
 3. **Jesus is our Redeemer** - Even in the oldest book of the Bible, we see prophetic glimpses of Jesus as our mediator, witness, advocate, and Redeemer.
 4. **Don't sin with your lips** - Guard what you speak over yourself and others during difficult times. Words plant seeds.
 5. **God causes all things to work together for good** - This doesn't mean everything IS good, but that God can work it FOR good for those who love Him (Romans 8:28).
 6. **What matters eternally** - People are the only thing we take with us. Relationships matter more than possessions.
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Practical Application

This Week's Challenge

- Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:
- **Option 1: The Job Declaration** When facing difficulty (big or small), practice saying: "The Lord gives and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21). Journal about how this practice affects your perspective.
- **Option 2: Replace "Why?" with "Okay"** Catch yourself when you start to ask "Why, God?" and intentionally replace it with "Okay, Lord, I trust you." Share your experience with the group next week.
- **Option 3: Encourage Someone in Suffering** Think of someone you know who is going through a hard time. Reach out to them this week—not with advice or explanations, but with presence and support (like Job's friends did for the first seven days).
- **Option 4: Memorize Job 19:25** "As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth."

- **Option 5: Inventory Your Words** Pay attention to what you're speaking over yourself and others. Are you planting seeds of doubt or seeds of faith? Make a conscious effort to speak life and trust.
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Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer (10-15 minutes)

- Share prayer requests, especially focusing on areas where group members are struggling to trust God or facing difficult circumstances
 - Pray specifically for:
 - Those questioning God's goodness
 - Those in seasons of loss or suffering
 - Strength to worship God regardless of circumstances
 - Wisdom to be good friends to those who are suffering
 - Hearts that say "Blessed be the name of the Lord" in all seasons
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Looking Ahead

Next week, we'll continue in our "Wisdom and Whispers" series. Take time this week to read the book of Job in its entirety if possible, or at minimum chapters 1-2, 38-42.

Additional Resources

- Consider reading the book "When God Weeps" by Joni Eareckson Tada
 - Listen to worship songs that focus on God's faithfulness in trials
 - Keep a gratitude journal this week, listing blessings even in difficult circumstances
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