

Job 1-2

Big Idea: When everything you value is taken away, hold on to the One who cannot be taken away.

Job was a Real Person

If there is one person in Scripture whose name is synonymous with suffering, it is Job. Even people who don't know much about the Bible have heard about *"the patience of Job."* That description may cause us to miss the real story. Job hurt. Job grieved. He questioned. He became angry. There were moments when Job wished he had never been born. Job was a real person and his faith was about to be tested in a way I hope yours and mine never will be.

Retributive Dogma

Job is doing everything right, but everything is about to go wrong. That matters. Sometimes we carry around a very simple formula: Good things happen to good people and Bad things happen to bad people. It's called the retributive dogma and it's been around a very, very long time. But that's not how life always works, and Job is about to prove it.

1. Hold on when life isn't fair (vv.13-19)

You have an enemy. Scripture calls him "Satan." It literally means *"accuser."* So, the accuser comes before God to accuse someone and God says something remarkable. At the very beginning we discover what this story is really about. It's not primarily about suffering. It's about faith. Does Job love God? Or, does Job simply love what God gives him? Eventually every mature Christ-follower must wrestle with some version of that question.

2. Hold on when you don't understand (vv.21-22)

After losing everything Job says, *"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."* That's an incredible perspective! Job doesn't know why. He doesn't know what happens next. He simply knows "WHO." And sometimes "WHO" has to be enough because "WHY" isn't available.

3. Hold on when faith is all you have left (vv.7-10)

Job has lost everything, but there's one thing the enemy hasn't been able to take – His faith. Notice, Job doesn't understand God. Job isn't happy with God. Job isn't enjoying the journey, but Job refuses to let go of God. It's easy to say, "God is good!" when life is good. It's easy to sing, "Great is Thy Faithfulness" when God appears to be faithful. But what about when life isn't good? Is God still good? What about when the prayer isn't answered? Is God still good? Job's answer was... *"I don't understand Him, but I'm not letting go."*

Hold On

When life happens... When prayers go unanswered... When God seems silent... When God says no... When God doesn't make sense... We hold on. Because ultimately, we aren't just holding on to Him. He is holding on to us.

Family Night – Read Job 1

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "What kind of man was Job? Why did Satan think Job worshipped God? What did Job lose? What did Job do when he lost everything?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "How would you describe Job's loss? How did he handle such terrible loss? What should we do when God does not seem fair? How should we react when we lose something we love?"

Prayer: "Father, help us trust You even when we do not understand why certain things happen. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: This Wednesday, August 19 at 6:30.

Gravity: Gravity will resume September 6th.

Today's Songs

God So Loved.....We the Kingdom

Mighty Name of Jesus.....Hope Darst

I Believe.....Phil Wickham

Hold On

New Series Part 4 today. We have good reason to "hold on" even when it appears God is absent from our circumstances.

Back to School Bash

KidsJAM kids are invited to the church this Wednesday, August 19 for indoor and outdoor games from 6-7pm. Sign up in KidsJAM.

Small Group Leadership Training

Training is Saturday, September 19. If you are interested in leading a small group, we can teach you how.

GCC 101

Membership Class is September 13 after the 11:00 service. Childcare is provided and a light lunch will be served. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk.