



## Introduction

The suffering of Job is extreme. He had it all, and it all was taken away from him. Some look to the book of Job and ask, “why do good people suffer?” But what if Job has so much more to offer? Job challenges commonly held assumptions and gives a clearer and richer perspective about God, righteousness, sin, suffering, and the world we live in.

## Open (Get comfortable talking with each other)

- 1) Did you ever get in trouble for doing the right thing or do the wrong thing and it turned out good for you?
- 2) What was something from Sunday’s sermon that stuck with you?

## Discover (Open the Bible to see how truth meets life.)

1. How should good and bad behavior impact what someone gets out of life? (This is an intro question. Don’t let it take too much time. We want to work through other questions too.)
2. Read Job 1:9-11. If the accuser told God that the only reason you honor God by doing good is because of the protection God provides and the good that God gives to you, what do you think God’s response might be? Why? (In other words, “Are you only good because you have gotten good or to get good from God?” What would God say? Why?)
3. Do you feel it is easier to worship God when things are going good or when bad things are happening? Why? Why might someone experience it the other way around?
4. How have very good events and very bad events in your life affected your view of God?
5. Read Job 2:9. Why might it be tempting to “curse God, and die” when bad things happen? How/why do some people encourage this response?
6. Read Job 1:20-21. What barriers are between you and worshiping God for who God is and not just what God gives?
7. How hard would the person who knows you best say it is for you to accept trouble in your life? Why?
8. What sins did Job not do in response to the trouble in his life? Read Job 1:22 and 2:9-10. On a scale of 1-10, how hard would that have been?
9. God often speaks to his people. If there is one thing that struck you or stuck with you from today’s discussion, please share it. It might be for someone else. Also, when someone else is sharing, listen carefully. What they are saying may just be for you. (Give everyone ample time to share. You can clarify, but try not to correct or expand on their thoughts.)

## Close (Take a look at the person in the mirror and decide to make a change.)

When have you experienced a time of life that was less than what you expected or a time filled with heartache and strife? What does your response during that time of your life reveal about your character? If your response displayed a sincere faith and trust in God, praise God and seek for him to strengthen your resolve for the next time. If your response was less than stellar, learn and grow from that experience and seek God’s help to build trust and faith in your life. This week read Job chapters 8-14 in the journey of hearing the entire story.