

Summary Statements

Job and his friends said a lot in the middle chapters of Job, some true, some not true. These are some of the things that Job and his friends said. Discuss each one and circle True or False next to each sentence.

True False If you live right and follow God, God promises you will have an easy, successful life.

True False If you have a lot of trouble and suffering in your life, you must have done some terrible sin to deserve punishment.

True False Sometimes God makes us suffer for no reason. (See Job 9:17.)

True False When we are not suffering, it is easy to misunderstand and look down on people who are suffering. (See Job 12:4-5.)

Read Job 16:7-14. Perhaps Job's biggest weakness in all of his suffering was this: he didn't think he could turn to God for help. He thought God had become his enemy. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. When we experience trouble, what can we do, and what can we believe that will help us?

The Problem of Suffering



The Book of Job, Part 2

Why do we suffer? This is a difficult question to answer. Often, there is no clear answer. But any time we suffer, we usually ask “Why?” Job and his friends also asked why. In this study, we will two major responses to suffering; depression and looking for answers. We will see the dangers in both responses and look for the way God wants us to respond.

The first response: Depression

At first, Job kept faith in God, he did not sin, he did not accuse God of doing wrong. Job still trusted God with his life. But as time went on and Job continued to suffer, what happened? Read Job 3:1. What did Job wish?

Does that mean Job lost his faith?

Read Job 3:20-26. Even though Job wants to die, what is one thing he doesn't do or suggest? (Remember Job 2:9.)

Even during his worst depression, does Job still have hope? Read Job 19:23-27.

The second response: Blame

Job's three friends take turns telling Job basically the same thing. Read Job 4:7-9. What does Eliphaz say happens to innocent people? What happens to evil people?

What does that mean about Job? Why does Eliphaz think Job is suffering?

Read Job 4:17-19, 5:8, 17-19. Eliphaz clearly understands that we are sinful. What does Eliphaz think Job should do?

Read Job 8:3-7. Bildad's statement is a good summary of what the three friends believe. According to their beliefs, if you lived right and followed God, what will God do for you?

Is it true that if something bad happens to you, it happened because you did some sin? Read Luke 13:1-5.

Read Luke 9:23-24. If you follow Jesus, what kind of life does He say you will have?

Read Job 31:1-6, 35-37. After Job's friends are done speaking, after they tell Job he must have sinned and deserved God's punishment, what does Job answer? Where is Job's hope and trust?

Do you think Job could have said something better? What?