

## Job 1-2 Wisdom in Tough Times

Most of us know what it's like to have one of *those* days. A day where nothing goes right and everything goes wrong. Sometimes those sorts of days are nothing more than a nuisance, and given time we can think back and laugh. Sometimes those days are far more tragic. These are days which can be the start of unimaginable grieving and suffering.

The Old Testament book of Job takes us into the life of a man who virtually loses everything in a single day.

### Read Job 1:1-5.

1. What are Job's physical circumstances like?

2. What is Job's character like?

3. Read Proverbs 3:1-8. According to the proverbs, how are Job's wealth and blamelessness linked?

### Read Job 1:6-22.

4. What is Satan's accusation against Job?

5. How does God respond?

6. What do we learn about God and Satan in these verses?

7. What does Satan cause to happen to Job? What different types of events does Satan use to bring suffering to Job?

8. How does Job respond?

The reason for Job's suffering is revealed to us, the readers, if not to Job. Satan has come before God and questioned Job's righteousness. Satan argues that Job only follows God for what Job can get out of it.

In one sense, it is a slur against Job's character, but it is also a slur against God. Satan is suggesting that God can only win friends for himself by giving them things. Satan is proved wrong. After losing his prosperity and family, Job does not do what Satan predicted. Rather than curse God, Job praises him. Satan, however, remains unconvinced.

### Read Job 2.

9. In this chapter what further things do we discover about God, Satan and Job?

- God
  
- Satan
  
- Job

**10.** To what extent does Job understand why he is suffering?

**11.** Job and Jesus

How is Jesus similar to Job/ greater than Job? Read Math 4:1-11; 26:36-39, Heb 2:14-18

## Implications

(Choose one or more of the following to think about further or to discuss in your group.)

- What do we learn from Job about How we should respond to God when bad things happen to us and we don't understand why?
  
- Satan accuses Job of being more interested in God's gifts than God himself. To what extent could this be true for you? What are some ways that we could ensure we don't fall into that trap?
  
- When we are suffering, how can it be comforting to remember that God is in control?

## Give thanks and pray

- Thank God that he is the ruler of everything and nothing beyond his control.
- Pray that He would keep helping us come to terms with suffering in this world.