

## **Week 1 of 7 - Job 1:1 - 2:13**

**WATCH HERE:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40W8sHyyj64>

### **Overview of the Book of Job**

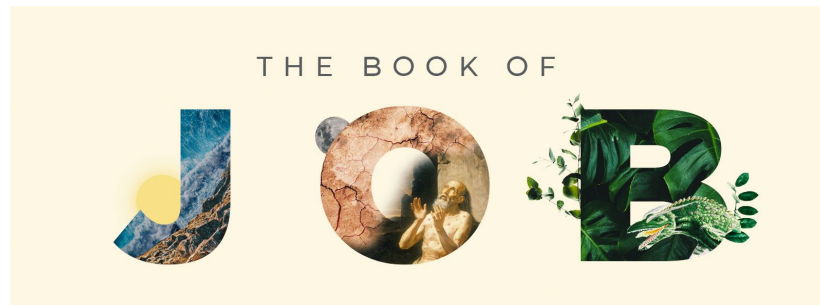
- **DATE and AUTHOR:** No one knows who wrote Job or exactly when it was written. Scholars have suggested that Job can be traced back to the Patriarchal Period (2000-1500 BC).
- **Who was Job?** A righteous, blameless (1:8), and relatively young man (15:10) who lived in Uz (probably in modern-day Israel-Jordan). He was extremely wealthy, and he was the spiritual leader of a very large family.
- **What genre is the Book of Job?** Although some have suggested that Job's story may be a work of fiction, he is mentioned elsewhere in the Bible as a historical figure (Ezekiel 14:14-20, James 5:11). Most likely, the Book of Job is part-history, part-parable.
- **Where does Job fit into the rest of the Old Testament?** It is the third book of the Hebrew Bible's Wisdom Trilogy (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job). These books work together to tell a larger story about justice and God's wisdom. Proverbs: "Everything makes sense and works out exactly the way it should." Ecclesiastes: "Nothing makes sense or works out the way it should." The Book of Job reconciles the first two wisdom books.

### **Job 1:1-5**

What do these verses tell us about Job's circumstances and his faith?

### **Job 1:6-12**

What is happening in these verses? Who is Satan? What does the exchange between God and Satan tell us about their relationship?



**Job 1:13-22**

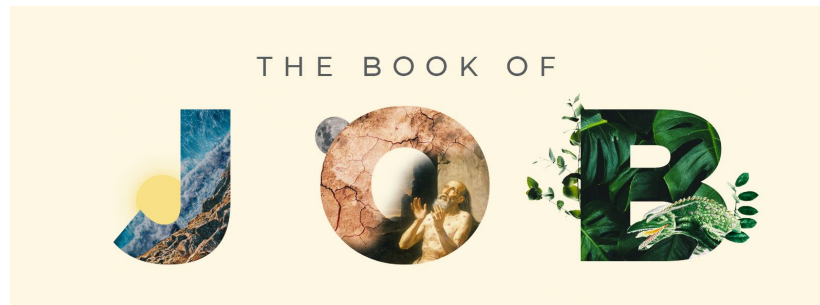
What happened in these verses, and how did Job respond?

**Job 2:1-13**

In these verses, God and Satan meet again. What did Satan request this time, and what was the outcome?

How did Job's wife react to his plight, and how did Job respond to her?

How did Job's friends react upon seeing his misfortune?



## Week 2 of 7 - Job Chapters 2 and 3

If you missed Session 2, you can watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdSDUExvoJ8>

### **The Book of Job vs. Dominant Ancient Near-Eastern Worldviews**

#### The Nature of Suffering

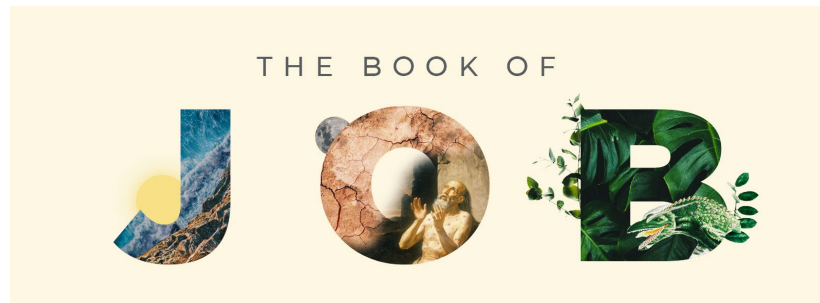
- Traditional Belief: The Retribution Principle. Mesopotamian cultures that were contemporaneous to Job promoted the idea that wicked things happen to wicked people. For example, bodily sickness was the result of personal sin. Sick people were often ostracized and alone because their family and friends did not want to be found guilty by association.
- Job: We don't always know why bad things happen. Job - the world's most righteous man - experiences misfortune through no fault of his own.

*As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. John 9:1-3*

#### The Nature of Deity

- Traditional Belief: The Great Symbiosis. Most ancient near-eastern people believed in gods who created the world for themselves and were content to live without human beings. Over time, they grew weary of doing their own chores - farming, hunting, and general oversight/upkeep of creation. So the gods created humans to be slave laborers whose primary function is to maintain the gods' comfortable lifestyle. If bad things happened to you, people presumed it was because the gods were angry with you, or perhaps merely irritated by you.
- Job: The true God has no need of human slaves to feed or care for him. This God created humans out of His desire to be in faithful, covenant relationship with us.

*"However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands. As the prophet says, 'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? Or where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things?'" - Acts 7:48-50*



### The Nature of Justice

- Traditional Belief: Justice is for humans, by humans. The gods had no role in creating or modeling justice for people. The gods' only interest in just, orderly societies was rooted in the reality that such societies tended to become more prosperous, and thus better equipped to provide for the gods.
- Job: Justice is rooted in God's holiness (or perfect righteousness). God is just, and even though we may not always understand it, His justice will prevail.

*"For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!"*

- Isaiah 30:18

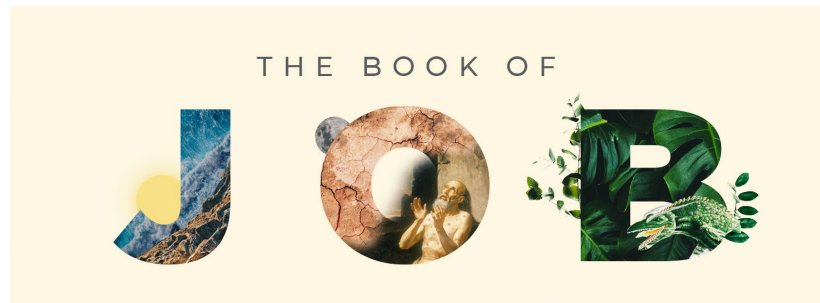
Notes:

### **Job 2:7-13**

What does the exchange in v.9-10 tell you about the condition and their character of both Job and his wife?

What did Job mean when he said, "Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" Was he implying that he deserved what was happening to him?

In 2:11-13, Job's three friends arrive. What was their initial reaction to Job's condition? Where do you see evidence of true friendship and love here?



### Job 3:1-26

3:1-10 - Job's lament, he responds with deep sorrow, some key themes:

- He curses the day he was born
- Fear
- He finds himself in a place of great darkness, deep sorrow

What does this initial lament tell you about Job's relationship with God? Think about your own misfortunes, and who is the first person you go to, in order to express your sorrow and affliction?

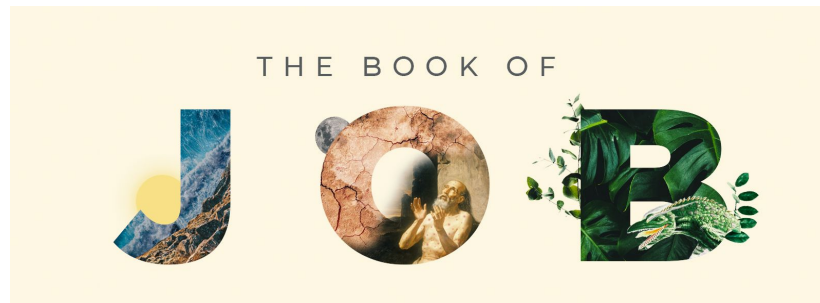
3:11-26 - Job laments his misfortunes, some key themes:

- Continues cursing the day he was born
- Laments his misfortunes
- He compares his misfortunes to the ones of others who were unrighteous in their earthly life
- He wishes he was dying
- He feels forsaken, trapped in a cycle of misfortune
- His greatest fears came true

Have you ever gone to God to express deep disappointment and anger? Even if none of your misfortunes were God's fault, did you feel your covenant with God was strong enough for you to trust him with your woes?

THE BOOK OF





## Week 3 of 7 - Job Chapters 4-7

If you missed Sessions 1 and 2, you can watch them on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/thestoryhouston>

Outline:

### I. Opening comments/General teaching

#### A. Thinking about Job's Three Friends Today

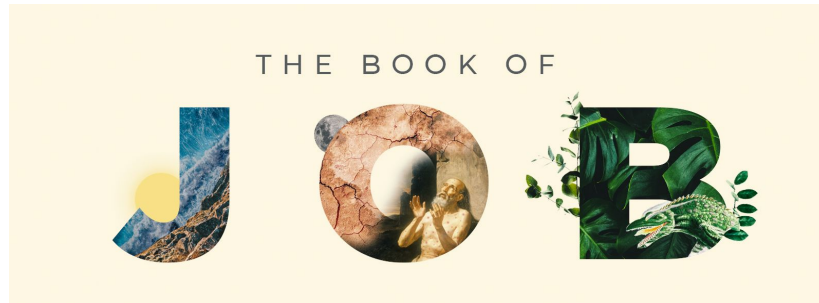
1. What can we tell about Job's three friends from the text? What do they have in common with each other, and what differences do we see in their approaches to Job?
2. Where do you see signs of true friendship in the text so far (chapters 1-3)?
3. What can we learn from Job's friends about how to walk alongside someone who is suffering?

### II. Eliphaz (Job 4-5)

A. Read Job 4:1-8. How does Eliphaz acknowledge Job's faithfulness? What is his advice to Job?

B. Read Job 4:12-19. What was the point of sharing this frightening vision with Job?

C. Read Job 5:1-7. Who is the fool that Eliphaz has seen?



**D. Read Job 5:8-27.** How is Eliphaz being helpful and unhelpful at the same time?

**E. Reflection:** What do Eliphaz's words teach you about biblical friendship? How do you think you can be a more helpful friend to people in pain?

## Week 3 of 7 - Job Chapters 6 and 7

### Chapter 6

#### **Main Themes:**

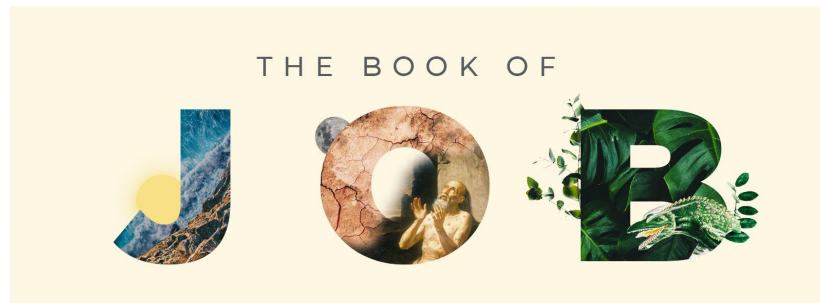
- Challenging friendships (Eliphaz and co.)
- Weakness and pain caused by a lack of nutrition and difficulty eating
- Suffering

#### **Questions:**

**What was Job doing in this chapter, and what is his greatest struggle?**

**Why could his friends not understand his grief?**





**What should these friends have done instead of criticizing Job?**

## Chapter 7

### **Main Themes:**

-Job is struggling with a severe lack of rest and sleep deprivation in this chapter. Those two are not conducive towards healing.

-Job blames God for bringing suffering upon him

-Wisdom literature at its best, Job reflects on the meaning of life, borrowing the style of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes

-Sin - Job is confessing he's not blameless. He's still a man of integrity, but not sinlessness. Integrity allows a person to be truthful about his or her condition before God.

*Additional scriptures:*

*Psalm 19:12-14*

But can anyone know what they've accidentally done wrong?

Clear me of any unknown sin

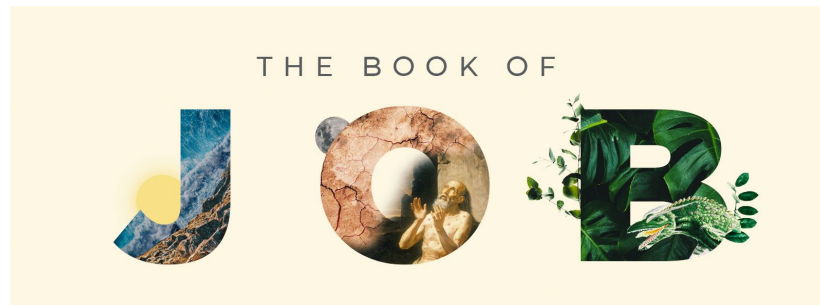
Don't let them rule me.

Then I'll be completely blameless;

I'll be innocent of great wrongdoing.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart  
be pleasing to you, Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

2 Peter 2:19-20: For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

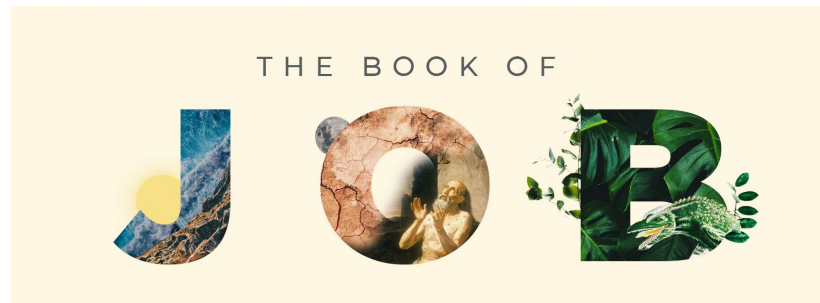


**Questions:**

**Is God responsible for Job's suffering? If so, why does God allow innocent people to suffer?**

**Why does Job want God to forgive his transgressions?**

**III. Closing comments/Prayer - Eric/Geo**



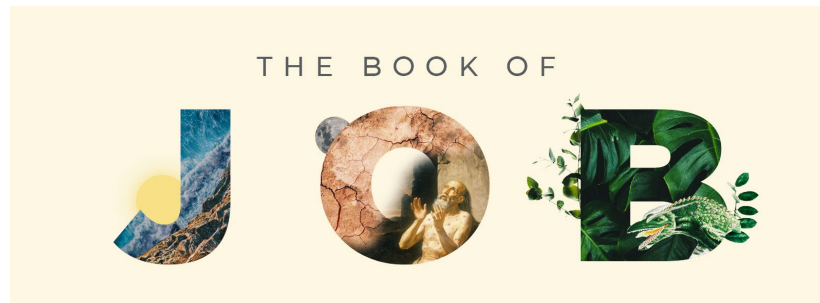
## Week 4 of 7 - Job Chapters 8-19

If you missed Sessions 1-3, you can watch them on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/thestoryhouston>

### Outline:

- I. Opening Comments - Remaining Questions from Last Week
  - A. In this book, God gave Satan permission to bring distress to Job. Is that what has happened each time any of us suffers misfortune? (Tim)
  
  - B. When we talk about God causing or allowing bad things to happen in the world, can it be God's creation was never meant to prevent suffering? I think the world can be beautiful and also dangerous at the same time. (Moises)
  
- II. Bildad Speaks, Job Responds (Job 8-10)
  - A. Read Job 8:1-13. What did Bildad intend to say to Job? How do you think Job may have heard it?
  
  - B. Read Job 8:20-22. How did Bildad seek to encourage Job? What was he (like Eliphaz before him) still getting wrong about Job's situation?
  
  - C. Read Job 9:14-17. Compare it to Jesus' parable in Matthew 25:14-30. What is Job's assumption about God's character, and how does it compare to the servant with one piece of gold in Jesus' story?
  
  - D. Read Job 9:21-35. How would you describe Job's frame of mind here? Compare this with Ecclesiastes 9. How does cynicism affect your



outlook? What circumstances lead you to become more cynical, and how do you overcome cynicism?

1. Pay special attention to 9:32-35. What is Job asking God for, and what is the significance of this request in the context of the rest of Scripture?

E. Read Job 10:2-22. What important shift in Job's perspective do you see here? How can praying to God when you're hurting and doubting change everything?

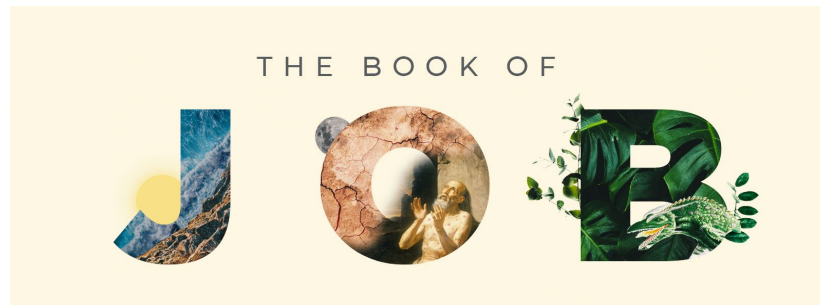
### III. Job Replies to Zophar (Job 12-14) | 16-18

#### A. Job's Friendship with God and others

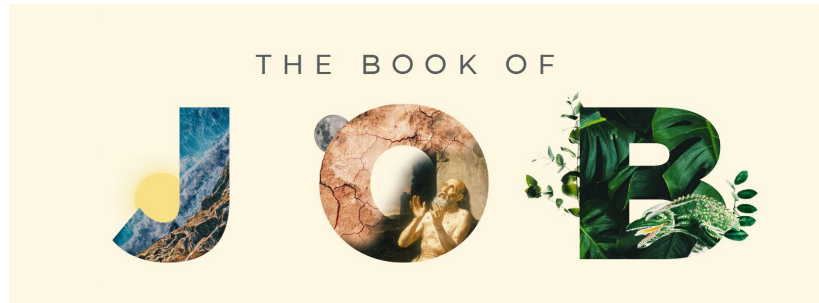
1. Job deals with his friendships in an interesting way. He's different not only because of the amount of suffering he's able to endure, but because of the way in which he relates to God and his three friends.
2. He teaches us that our relationship with God can't look trite or dull. His relationship with God gets messy, intense, and it takes Him through a transformational journey.
3. He also ministers to, and teaches his friends how to be more down to earth and empathetic. He's showing them how to journey alongside the downtrodden, lonely, and broken.
4. What does an ideal friendship look like?

B. Read Job 13:17-20. Why are we more inclined to keep things superficial instead of relating to God and others in a more honest and authentic way?

C. How is your friendship with God reflected in the way you relate to others?



- D. Read Job 16:1-5. How can you better relate to your friends when they're going through difficult times?**
- E. Read Job 19:25-27. What is the significance of Job's proclamation in the context of his struggle?**



## **Week 5 of 6 - Job Chapters 21-31**

If you missed Sessions 1-4, you can watch them on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/thestoryhouston>

Outline:

I. Welcome, Opening Comments

A. The Poetry of Job - <https://youtu.be/tRda0dnMBw8?t=5748>

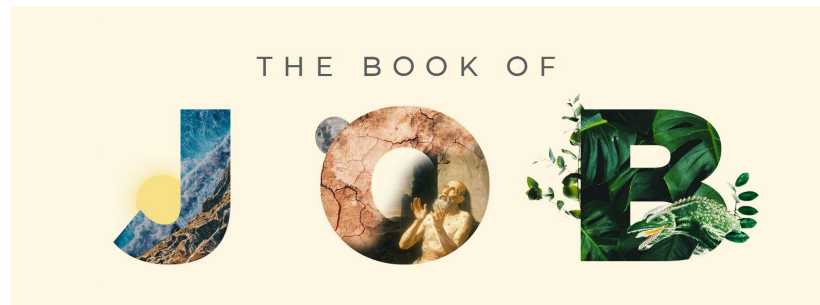
II. Job & Friends (Job 21-27)

A. Eliphaz's final rebuke and Job's response (22-24) - Group Questions

1. How does Eliphaz and Bildad progress in their rebuke of Job throughout his three responses? What are his friends missing? (22: 4-10)
2. Job responds by asking the question "Where are you, God?" Consider Job 23:8-12 vs. Psalm 139:7-11. What's the difference?
3. Who does Job shift his focus to in chapter 24? Why is it so important to not lose our focus on God? (24: 13-21)
4. How has comparison with others robbed you from joy? (2 Corinthians 10:12)

B. Bildad's final speech and Job's response. (Job 25-27) - Group Questions

1. How does Job lay out his case in this response to his friends? (27:3-6)



2. Job lays out sincere and searching questions in 27:8-10. How can these questions be comforting to a sincere heart? Consider these rephrased questions:
  - a. Do you have hope in God beyond this life? When distress comes upon you, do you cry out to a God who listens? Do you find delight and joy in spending time with God? Can you call on God at all times? Do you “rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances?” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)
3. How does Job maintain his integrity and still miss the mark?

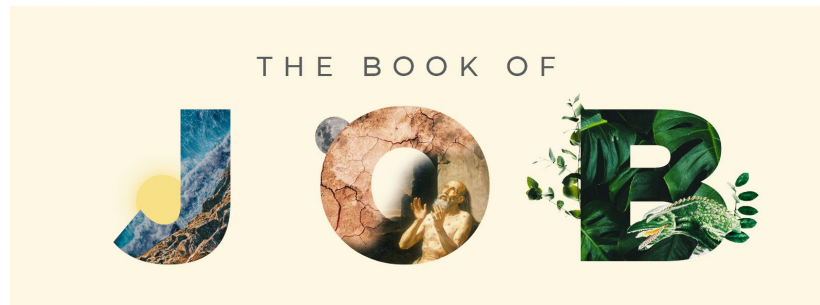
### III. Wisdom (Job 28)

#### A. What Is Wisdom in the Bible?

1. Wisdom is the bridge between our limited perspective and God’s eternal perspective.
2. Job 28:1, 12 - “There is a mine for silver, and a place where gold is refined. But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell?” Compare to Proverbs 2:4-5 - “...if you search for [wisdom] as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and attain the knowledge of God.”
3. Job 28:23 - “God understands the way to [wisdom], and he alone knows where it dwells.” Compare to James 1:5 - “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”
4. Job 28:28 - “The fear of the Lord - that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.” Compare to Proverbs 9:10 - “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”

#### B. Group Questions: What Difference Does Wisdom Make?

1. When you observe the world around you, do you perceive a lack of biblical wisdom in our culture?
2. What difference do you think this kind of wisdom would make in our current climate, culture wars, etc?



IV. Job's Final Response (Job 29-31)

A. These three chapters represent Job's closing arguments in response to his friends' accusations. Instead of caving to pressure and falsely confessing his guilt, he stands strong in his conviction that he is not guilty.

B. The entire section is summarized in Job 31:33-40.

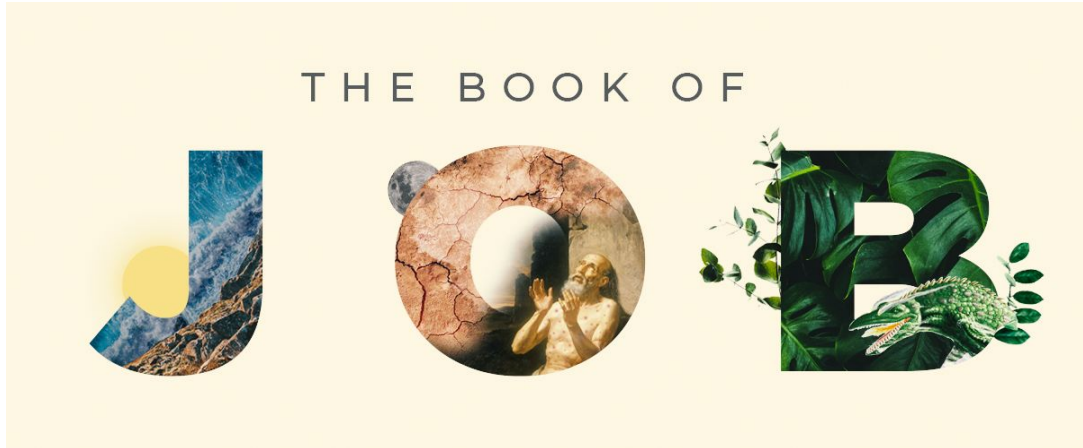
C. Group questions:

1. Why did Job demand a written indictment from his "accuser" (God) in verse 35?

2. How would you summarize Job's response to his suffering, as well as his response to his friends' accusations? How do you suppose we could apply Job's approach to our own seasons of struggle and pain?

V. Looking Ahead - Read Job 38-42 before next week's session





**Book of Job Bible Study Guide - Session 6**

**[Session 1](#), [Session 2](#), [Session 3](#), [Session 4](#), and [Session 5](#).**

1. Summarize the first 37 chapters of Job in three sentences.
  
2. Read Job 38-39. After hearing Job's complaints (in chapters 3-31), what was God's general response? How do you see God's response to Job fleshed out in Jesus' teachings in the gospels?
  
3. Read Job 40:1-5. Summarize Job's response to God. Why does Job fall silent?

4. Read Job 40:6-14. Why did God suggest that Job was trying to save himself, instead of relying on God? What are some of the ways we attempt to save ourselves today?

5. Read Job 42. What are Job's final words to God, and why are they significant?

6. What is the Book of Job about? How would you describe it to an unbelieving friend?

7. What is the Book of Job's answer to the dilemma of human suffering?

8. What role does DOUBT play in the life of a believer? Who were some of the doubters in the Bible, and how did God use them?

9. The single-most problematic belief among Christians today is a God who is too \_\_\_\_\_.

10. What does God's restoration of Job in the end say about His eternal plans for those who trust in Him?