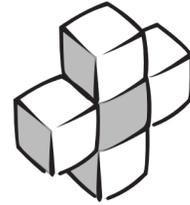




**SMACC**  
*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ*



# **Bible Study Series: Job**



**Our Mission:**

*To glorify God together in response to his grace  
by making disciples of Jesus Christ*

## **About These Studies**

These studies were written by Cathedral Women’s Bible Study for use among women. You are most welcome to use and adapt these studies for your own context. Where you do so please provide the following acknowledgment.

*These studies are adapted from St Mary’s Anglican Cathedral. Used with permission. Other Bible studies like these are available at: <https://stmaryscathedral.org.my/bible-studies/>*

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# **Study 1: “God’s Sovereignty, in Good And Bad Times”**

## **(Job 1:1-2:10)**

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

1. What do we learn about Job’s relationships, material possessions, and status?
2. In these verses, what shows us that Job is blameless and upright?

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

3. What do we learn about God and Satan here? (v6-7)
4. How does God view Job? (v8)
5. What does Satan accuse Job of? How does God respond to that? (v9-12)

### **Read Job 1:13-22**

7. What does Satan cause to happen to Job?
8. Consider Job’s response to his suffering (v20-22). How is this similar to/different from our experiences?

**Read Job 2:1-10**

9. Here we see that again God affirms that Job is blameless. How does Satan repeat his accusation of Job as he did in chapter 1?

10. What does Satan cause to happen to Job? How does the description of Job's response show his suffering? (7-8)

11. Consider Job's response to his wife - what does this tell us about his understanding of God in relation to his suffering?

**Bringing It Together**

12. From this study, what have we learned about:

God	
Satan	
Job	

13. Job's suffering was great and he did not foresee it coming his way, yet he believed God was in complete control. At the cross, we see the ultimate suffering of Christ. Jesus knew that his suffering was certain. (Luke 9:22)

a. What was the reason for Jesus' suffering? (Isaiah 53:3,5)

b. How do we understand the suffering of Christ in light of God's sovereignty? (Acts 2:22-24)

14. God is sovereign over all things. Nothing happens outside of His permission or control. (Job 42:2).

How has this study challenged your understanding of God?

15. How does God's sovereignty comfort us in our suffering / the suffering around us?

## **Study 2: “Who that was Innocent ever Perished?”** **(Job 2:11-14)**

**Read Job 2:11-3:26**

1. What is your impression of Job’s three friends? (2:11-13)

2. Why do you think death is so appealing to Job? (3:1-19)

3. What is Job asking here? (3:20-26)

4. What does Job say about God in 3:23? Compare this with what Satan says in 1:10.

**Cycle 1: Job and His Three Friends (Job 4 - 14)**

5. What is the tone of Job’s friends’ speeches? (4:2-5, 5:27, 8:8-10)

6. Fill up the following table.

<b>Question</b>	<b>Eliphaz</b>	<b>Bildad</b>	<b>Zophar</b>
What reason did Job's friend give for suffering?	<i>4:7-8, 17</i>	<i>8:3-4, 20</i>	<i>11:4-6, 10-12</i>
What advice did Job's friend give him?	<i>5:8-9, 17-18</i>	<i>8:5-6</i>	<i>11:13-15</i>
How does Job feel about his friends and their advice?	<i>6:21, 24-27</i>	-	<i>13:1-5, 12</i>
How would you summarise Job's friends' view of suffering and God?			
How would you summarise Job's friends' advice to him?			

7. What do you think about what the three friends' have said? Is it true?

8. Job's friends didn't come to him with the intention of making things worse! What can we learn about how to be a good comforter?

9. In Job's responses, what can we see about how Job views himself? (9:15, 20-21) How does he feel towards God? (6:4, 7:16-21, 10:2-8, 13:17-28)

10. We know Job suffered because he was blameless (though not sinless) and feared God. In what way does this point forward to the sufferings of Christ? Why did Christ have to suffer? (1 Peter 3:18, Romans 6:23)

11. When faced with suffering, Christians too can assume it's God's punishment for sin. How does this study challenge that simplistic view?

## Study 3: “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” (Job 15-21)

### Cycle 2: Job’s Three “Comforters” Speak Again

1. What accusations are made against Job by Eliphaz? (15:4-6)

2. Eliphaz criticizes Job for pouring out his despair and anger to God. Do you agree with Eliphaz? Is there a place for Christians to cry out to God?

3. According to Job’s three friends, what is the fate of the wicked?

Friend	Verse	Fate of the wicked
Eliphaz	15:20, 29-30	
Bildad	18:5-21	
Zophar	20:5, 20-29	

4. Why do you think Job’s friends speak of the consequences for a wicked man?

### Job’s Response To His Comforters

5. What does Job think about his friends’ advice? (16:2-3, 19:2-5, 21:34)

6. What awaits Job if he simply accepts the perspective of his friends? (17:13-16)

7. In contrast with Zophar's view, what is Job's view of the life of the wicked in this age? (21:7-13)

### **Job and God**

8. What does Job think of God's involvement in His suffering?

a. Job 16:7-9, 11-14

b. Job 19:6-12, 13-19, 21-22

c. Compare this with Job 1:11-12. Whose hand is actually striking Job?

9. In his suffering, Job knows that whoever's hand is striking him does not have the last word. In the following passages, what is Job hoping for?

a) Job 9:33-35

b) Job 16:18-21

c) Job 19:25-27

**Application**

10. Although Job thinks it is God's hand that's against him, even in the depths of his suffering, Job is confident that His redeemer lives and that one day he will be vindicated. Do you think Job has grounds for his confidence or is it just wishful thinking?

11. Read 1 Corinthians 15:20. How does this give us assurance that Job's confidence is not wishful thinking, but a sure hope?

12. How does Jesus' resurrection give us hope for today and the future? (Romans 8:31-39)

13. How is Job's honesty and faith an example to us, in times of deep anguish and suffering?

## **Study 4: “Unjust Suffering” (Job 22-27)**

### **Cycle 3: Job and Eliphaz (Job 22-24)**

1. Eliphaz assumes that Job’s circumstances reveal significant wickedness in his life. How does he describe the likely ways Job has sinned? (22:6-9)

2. What does Eliphaz say Job should do? (22:21-23)

3. In Job’s response, what does he long for? (23:3-7)

4. How is Job feeling at this point, and why? (23:2, 8-9)

5. From these verses, what does Job have certainty about? (23:6, 10-12, 13-14)

6. Consider Job’s response and beliefs at this point, even in the face of harsh accusations from his “comforters”. What can we learn from him?

7. What question does Job raise in 24:1? What does God seem to do with the wicked? (24:12)

8. How does Job describe the wicked - particularly with the imagery of light and darkness? (24:13-17)

9. What is Job saying about the timing of God's judgement of the wicked (24:21-25)? How does this differ from what Eliphaz thinks?

**Cycle 3: Job and Bildad (Job 25-27)**

10. What does Bildad highlight about God (25:2-3) and man (25:4-6) in his last speech? What does this have to do with Job's suffering?

11. How does Job challenge his friends and their advice? (26:1-4)

12. How does Job view God's power over creation? (26:6-14)?

**Read Job 27:7-23**

13. Job says he will not speak falsehood and will maintain his integrity till his dying day! (2-6) What does he wish for anyone who thinks otherwise? (7)

14. In light of their accusations of Job, what may he be warning them about here regarding the wicked? (13-17, 20-21)

**Application**

15. How should we respond when the wicked seemingly prosper in this age?

16. As Christians, we know that Jesus took our ultimate punishment and we no longer have to face it. Should we be surprised then, if we face suffering now? (1 Peter 4:12-16)

17. What do you think it means to “entrust” yourself to “him who judges justly”? In what ways can you help one another to do this?

## **Study 5: “The Place of Wisdom and Understanding” (Job 28)**

### **Read Job 28:1-11**

1. What and how is the activity of man described in verses 1-6?
2. What do the creatures in verse 7-8 not know? What contrast is the author trying to make with man?
4. What is man able to do in verse 11?
5. What does this section tell us about man’s wisdom and ability?

### **Read Job 28:12-19**

6. What do verses 13-14 tell us about where wisdom is not found? What does this tell us about man’s ability to find its place?
7. How is the value wisdom described?
8. How does it compare with the precious things discussed in the earlier verses?

**Read Job 28:20-28**

9. Fill up the following table:

<b>Compare</b>	<b>What does it say about wisdom and understanding?</b>
Verse 20 and 23	
Verse 21 and 24	
Verse 22 and 27	

10. How is wisdom seen in the activity in verses 25-26? (Proverbs 3:19-20)

11. Wisdom (defined as a total comprehension of life), is inaccessible to man. Knowing that only God knows its place:

- a. how then should wisdom be expressed? (28)
  
- b. What does it mean to 'fear' the Lord?

**Application**

12. Job 28 has introduced us to the idea that in this world of suffering the most important thing is not to know why we are suffering, but to know and relate rightly to God even in the midst of suffering. How and why may we struggle with this?

13. In Isaiah 11:1-2, we see the anticipation of one who will be the very embodiment of wisdom. The New Testament writers (e.g. Colossians 2:2b-3) show us that this is fulfilled in Jesus.

If Jesus is the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:18-25), how then should we respond to him?

14. Since we have now found wisdom in the person of Jesus, how are we to live? (Colossians 2:6-7) Can we do this even when suffering?

15. How can we encourage and pray for one another in light of what we've learnt? (Colossians 1:9-10)

## **Study 6: “Justification” (Job 29-31)**

### **Read Job 29: He Remembers**

1. How does Job remember his relationship with God in these verses? (2-6)
2. What exactly is Job lamenting here, is it merely the loss of blessings?
3. How does Job remember his relationship with others? (7-11, 21-25)
4. What was it that caused others to relate to Job in this manner? (7-17)

### **Read Job 30: He Laments**

5. How are these men described? (1-8)
6. How is Job’s relationship with these men now? (1, 9-15) Compare this with the earlier description of Job’s relationship with others; how it has changed?
7. What has caused others to now relate to Job in this manner? (11, 19, 21-23)

8. How does Job feel? (16-18, 20, 27-31)

9. What do you think is Job's confusion as he laments? (24-26)

**Read Job 31: His Appeal**

11. Fill in the table below. (Take note of the repeated word 'If')

Verse	Summarize the list of errors Job may have committed
1-4	
5-8	
9-12	
13-15	
16-23	
24-28	
29-34	

12. Job has endured the accusations of his friends, and lays down his final appeal here. In verses 35-37, what is Job saying about himself and 'the Almighty'?

13. What does Job say should happen if he is guilty of any? (38-40)

### **Summary**

14. Summarize today's chapters in 1-3 sentences and share it with one another. (You could work in twos or threes!)

### **Application**

In the first part of this study, we saw how Job doesn't just lament the loss of his blessings itself, but he reminisces his once intimate walk in friendship with God - when he was justified before Him.

#### **Read Romans 5:1-11**

15. As Christians, how can we be confident that we are justified and can continue to walk in intimate friendship with God - whether in times of blessings, fighting sin, or enduring suffering?

16. How is it possible to rejoice in suffering?

17. How can we helpfully remind one another of God's love for us in Christ when our circumstances would make it feel like God is against us?



7. What is Elihu's attitude as he speaks Job? (31-33)

**Job 34 - 37: Elihu Defends God**

8. Again, Elihu summarizes Job's complaint (24:5-6). What does he accuse Job of? (34:7-9)

9. In this chapter, Elihu defends God. What truth of God's character does Elihu uphold? (34:10-12)

10. What does Elihu affirm God's ways in his speech? (34:21-30)

11. In the following verses, what is Elihu saying about God's involvement with:

a. The world? (35:5-8)

b. Humankind? (35:9-13)

12. What point is Elihu trying to make, in response to Job's complaint about God's silence?

13. Elihu goes on at considerable length, to defend God. What are some of the things that he says of God in:

a. Job 36:26-33

b. Job 37:14-20

14. What does Elihu conclude in Job 37:22-24?

### **Summary**

15. What is the difference between Elihu's speeches and Job's three friends in terms of the manner in which they relate to him?

16. What do we make of the things that Elihu has said about both God and Job? Are they right or not?

### **Application**

17. Read Philippians 2:5-18. Highlight how in the incarnation, the awesome, majestic, perfect God described by Elihu enters into our small, broken, sin-soaked world to reconcile us to himself. Our sin does affect God - and he acts to make us righteous. What should our attitude and behaviour be in response?

## Study 8: “God Speaks” (Job 38-41)

### Read Job 38-41

1. What kind of response does God give Job? Why do you think God speaks like this?

2. How does God approach Job? (38:1-3, and 40:6-7)

3. God reminds Job that He alone is the creator and sustainer over all creation. Consider God’s questions to Job in 38:4-39:30.

Verses	List down (or) summarize the things God addresses in His questions to Job
Job 38:4-38	
Job 38:39-39:30	

4. Based on question 3, what do these verses tell us about God’s character and nature?

5. In Job 40:1-2, God ends the first round of his challenge by demanding an answer from “he who argues with God”—that is, Job. What do you make of Job’s attitude in 40:3-5? (Compare with Job 31:35-37)

6. God then begins a second speech, stating “I will question you, and you make it known to me” (40:7). How does God challenge Job in 40:8-14?

7. Do you think Job justified in questioning the rightness and wrongness of God’s acts?

8. In the next section, God describes two beasts. Fill in the blanks below:

Verse	Summary of description of beast
Job 40:15-24	
Job 41:1-9, 12-34 (Also mentioned in 3:8)	

9. God seems to focus more on the Leviathan. Why do you think God gives such a description of the terrifying strength of this beast? What point is He trying to make? (Leviathan is mentioned in other parts of the bible: Isaiah 27:1, Psalm 74:13-14, Psalm 104:26)

10. In Job 41:10-11, God summarizes His position. What does he claim of himself?

### **Application**

11. Compare how God presents himself in these chapters, with how he is often spoken of today among non-Christians / Christians. How has this study challenged your understanding of God?

12. In Job's suffering, his unanswered cries perhaps would've led him to feel that the attack he is facing is unrestrained, that it could go on forever, doubting God is really in control. How do these chapters speak into that? (Consider how we learn of Satan's real but limited power in Job 1-2.)

13. God's speech to Job is to remind him of His sovereign power and control over all things. Read Acts 4:18-31, how do the early believers draw on this knowledge in the face of opposition?

## **Study 9: “Repentance and Restoration” (Job 42)**

### **Read Job 42:1-6**

1. What does Job finally understand after listening to God? (2)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Job is responding to what God has said to him. (3-6) What is Job repenting of? How has God’s speeches seem to have affected Job’s tone in his response?

### **Read Job 42:7-9**

3. What does God have to say to Eliphaz about him, his friends, and Job? (7-8)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How did Job’s friends fail to speak of God rightly? (Recall the last 8 studies)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How does God speak about Job with his friends?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What does God require the friends to do, and why? What does this tell us about God? (8)

7. Why does God accept the prayers of Job?

8. Job's regular custom of sacrificing and burning offering for others was introduced to us in chapter 1. This time, he does it for his three friends (despite the way they have treated him) What does this tell us about Job?

**Think it through**

9. Throughout his suffering, Job has been wanting a mediator to speak on his behalf. Now Job plays a priestly role, in making intercession to God for his family/friends by offering sacrifices that God required for their sins. How does this point forward to Jesus as our mediator? (Hebrews 7:26-27)

10. How would you feel if the story stopped here. Would that be ok?

**Read Job 42:10-17**

11. How does Job end up compared to the beginning of the book? (10-17)

12. Why do you think God restored Job's fortunes?

### **Application**

13. In Job we see an example of suffering before glory, a pattern repeated throughout the old testament. How does this pattern find its fulfilment in Jesus' own life? (See Philippians 2:5-11).

14. Should we be surprised if this is the pattern of our lives? (John 15:18-21) Why do we so often think that if we follow Jesus everything will always go well for us?

15. Does Job ever find out why he suffered? When we face times of suffering, are there better questions to ask than "why"? How can we help each other to ask these better questions?