

BLESSED BE THE NAME

MAIN POINT.

Even in our **suffering**,
God is **worthy of**
worship.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Job, a man of integrity, suffered greatly at the hands of Satan, yet he endured and received the Lord's compassion and mercy (**James 5:11**). Jesus, the perfect Son of God, was tempted, betrayed, and crucified by the work of Satan, but Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before Him (**Heb. 12:2**). This was God's will for the salvation of sinners.



WORSHIP IN ALL THINGS

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to read all of the content on the timeline as you prepare to teach.

Job 1

Job 42

GOD IS ALWAYS WORTHY OF WORSHIP

JOB 1:8-12,18-22

8 And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" 9 Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? 10 Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." 12 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. . . . 18 While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, 19 and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you." 20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. 21 And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." 22 In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

SUFFERING CAN LEAD TO A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF GOD

JOB 42:1-6

1 Then Job answered the LORD and said: 2 "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 3 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 4 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.' 5 I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; 6 therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

BEFORE YOU TEACH

MAIN POINT.

Leaders: Thank you for preparing to teach God's Word. As you do, may He teach you new and wonderful truths (Ps. 119:18).

Even in our **suffering**, God
is **worthy of worship**.

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

GOD IS ALWAYS WORTHY OF WORSHIP

JOB 1:8-12,18-22; 42:1-6

“Although the Book of Job is not a comprehensive explanation of human suffering, it has always caused its readers to ask why suffering occurs. . . . When is the suffering of believers God's discipline for misbehavior (Ps. 39:11; Jer. 30:11; Heb. 12:5–11; Rev. 3:19), and when is it training for their spiritual maturity (Rom. 5:3–5; 2 Cor. 1:3–9; 2 Tim. 2:3; 4:5–8; James 1:2–4) and an opportunity to glorify God by their faith (1 Thess. 1:6–10; 2 Thess. 1:4–5; Heb. 11:37–12:1)? The condition of the man born blind, for example, was not caused by his sin or that of his parents but so that God might be glorified in his healing (John 9:2–3). What the believer does know, as the Book of Job teaches, is that we serve a personal God who is intimately aware of each person and his or her needs and concerns. Furthermore, the Lord has not only a cosmic plan but an individual purpose he is wisely, justly, and lovingly pursuing in each believer's life. Finally, our God is powerful enough to accomplish his will on earth as well as in heaven. Thus, the other purpose of Job is to give comfort to believers of all ages who find themselves in Job's situation of suffering. Many Christians would like to blame the devil for all manner of unpleasantness from minor occasions of bad luck to the most severe of human tragedies—loss of wealth, children, health, and honor. But the message of Job is that nothing happens to us that is not ultimately controlled by the knowledge, love, wisdom, and power of our God of all comfort (2 Cor. 1:3).”¹⁰

SUFFERING CAN LEAD TO A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF GOD

JOB 42:1-6

“Of the attributes of God, the ones that stand out in the Book of Job are sovereignty, omnipotence, omniscience, and justice. . . . Until the Lord appeared out of the whirlwind, Job complained that God was apathetic, blind to injustice, hidden, and unresponsive. . . . Since Job said so little after God spoke to him, it is hard to know what his new view of God was; certainly it would have acknowledged God's power, faithfulness, generosity, and mercy. That God spoke to Job at all was the ultimate honor for Job and by itself would have rectified most of his misconceptions.”¹¹



CONTEXT

Job was likely not a Hebrew and lived in the time of the patriarchs when nothing about God had been written. His understanding of God reveals both a depth of faith and his need for a deeper knowledge of God as his Savior. And that is exactly what Job's pain, and his encounter with God, provided. Like people in Job's day, we might be tempted to see material and personal blessings as a sign of obedience to God and absence or loss of those things as indicators of sin, but that's not always true. While Job's friends might have believed he was at fault for his adversity, we get a glimpse into a heavenly council, likely through a vision, in which angels report to God and carry out His orders. Satan approached God and accused Job of only being faithful when life was good. In what follows, we see two things: (1) Satan can only inflict misery as God allows, and (2) even that has boundaries set by God Himself. Job's story teaches important theology on suffering and God's justice.

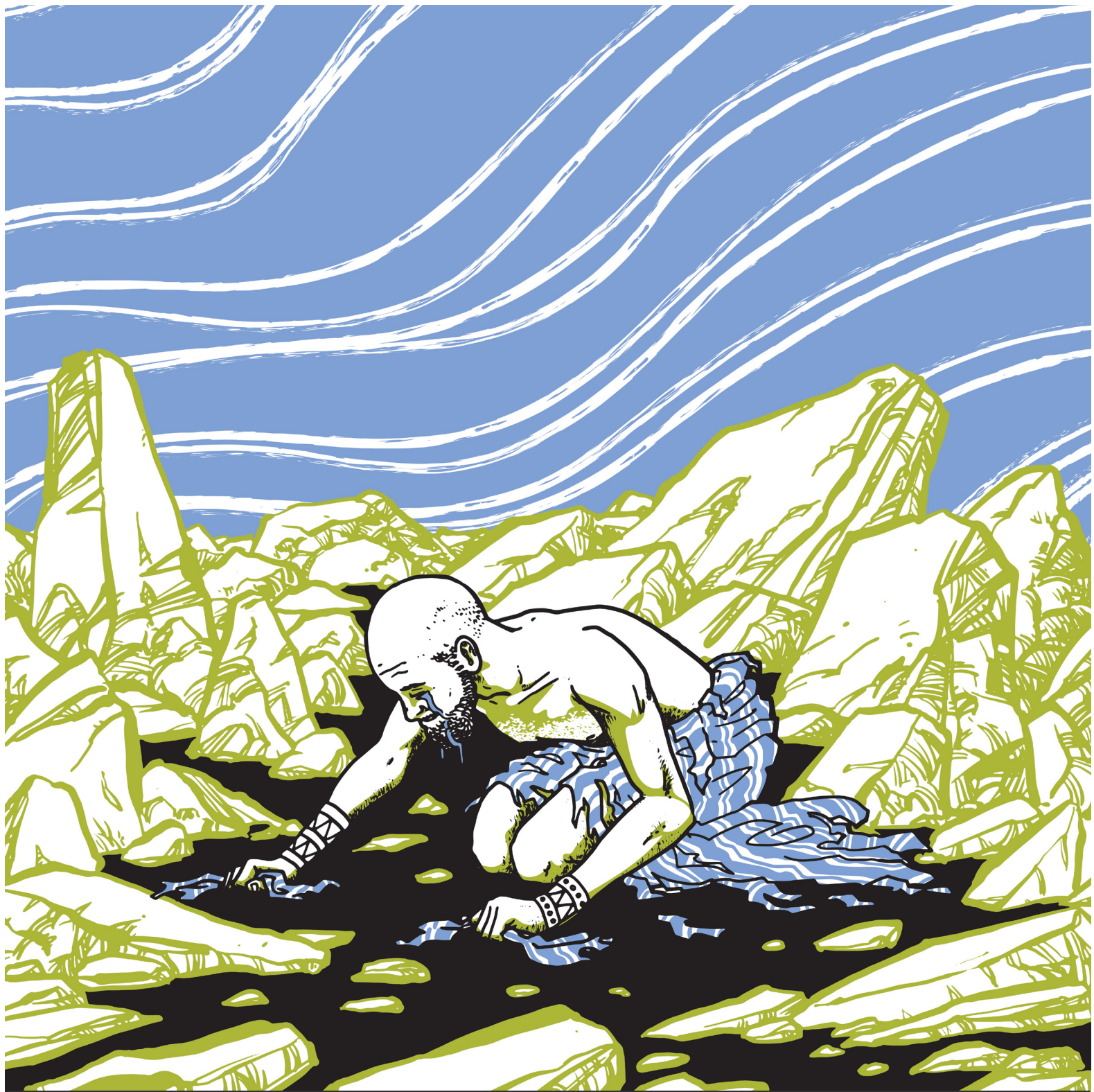
THEOLOGY CONNECTION

God is omniscient

Scripture teaches that God is all-knowing. He is the One who has “perfect knowledge” (Job 37:16), and this knowledge extends to all things past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. His knowledge is complete, and as He is outside of time, **He has known from all eternity whatever will come to pass**. In response to God's omniscience, we admit our finite knowledge and **trust His decisions as wise and good**.

LEADER'S PRAYER

LORD, WE TRUST YOUR WISDOM, EVEN IN OUR
SUFFERING. WE BLESS YOUR HOLY NAME.



KICK STARTER

DID YOU KNOW?

You probably started asking “why” when you were two or three years old. This is when most children’s brains are rapidly developing and they’re trying to make sense of the world around them.¹²

These optional activities are designed to help your students interact. You'll find a Discussion Activity and a Cultural Connection, which touches on a relevant topic in today's teen culture. Each group is different, so adapt these activities to fit your group's needs. The goal is for students to connect more to the lesson as they connect to the topic and to one another.

1

NO PAIN, NO GAIN

SUPPLIES LIST: NONE

Ask the following questions, allowing time for students to share responses:

- **WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GAIN MUSCLE? DOES IT HAPPEN QUICKLY?**
- **WHEN HAVE YOU ENDURED PHYSICAL DISCOMFORT TO GAIN STRENGTH OR ENDURANCE?**
- **IS THERE A SPIRITUAL CONNECTION? HOW DO DIFFICULTIES HELP US GROW?**

Whether we like this or not, physical growth is often a product of pain. We push our muscles to fatigue so that they'll literally break down and then rebuild. This is how strength is formed. Spiritually, pain often produces growth. It breaks down our preconceived ideas of who God is. It helps us learn who He really is and strengthens our faith in a different way than ease or comfort.

2

CULTURAL CONNECTION

Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people? How can He be loving but allow pain? What do we do when everything falls apart? Many of us ask these questions when we're suffering or someone we love is suffering; we desperately need there to be a reason. But there's rarely a simple answer. We may never know why certain things happen, but we can trace everything painful, evil, and sad to one thing: sin. All death and pain are the result of the fall in Eden. God never wanted us to experience any of it, and the hope we have in Christ is that, one day, we'll no longer have to. One day, our pain will cease. Sometimes, pain is the effect of sin; sometimes God allows it for His purpose and His glory. Sometimes our pain draws us or others to Him. No matter what, we can trust God in our pain. We can know He is good, even when life isn't, and that He is preparing a place for us where no pain can enter.

DISCUSSION

MAIN POINT.

Even in our **suffering**, God is **worthy of worship**.

GOD IS ALWAYS WORTHY OF WORSHIP

READ JOB 1:8-12,18-22

WHAT ARE MISUNDERSTANDINGS PEOPLE SOMETIMES HAVE ABOUT GOD AND SUFFERING?

People sometimes believe a false idea, a prosperity gospel, which says God blesses those who belong to Him with an easy life—one of health and wealth. Ultimately, yes, believers are abundantly blessed in heaven. **But following Jesus doesn't mean life will be easy on earth, and we won't escape suffering.** One flaw in prosperity teaching is that if bad things happen to people, then they must not belong to God. And this simply isn't biblical, as we see with Job.



WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT GOD'S CONTROL OVER ALL THINGS (SOVEREIGNTY) IN THIS PASSAGE? ABOUT SATAN'S LIMITS?

God is omniscient, or all-knowing, which means nothing happens outside of His knowledge—even suffering. God is also omnipotent, or all-powerful. Satan falls under God's control and can't act without God's permission. **Everything happens under God's sovereignty.** We can take comfort in the truth that nothing in our lives happens without God's knowledge or power.

WHAT DO VERSES 21-22 SHOW YOU ABOUT WORSHIP? HOW DID JOB'S FAITH IMPACT HIS WORSHIP IN SUFFERING?

We sometimes adopt a skewed view of worship. We make it contingent on us—our goodness, our circumstances, or our feelings. And if we don't feel like worshiping, then we simply don't. If life is difficult or if we're hurting, we sometimes shut down and withhold worship from the Lord. If we're honest, we may begin to feel that He doesn't deserve it. But here's the deal: **Authentic worship isn't conditional. Authentic worship rests solely on who God is—His nature and His worth.** God's nature never changes. He is always good, always kind, always loving, always holy. Job recognized this about God, so his painful circumstances didn't distort his view of worship. Job's pain didn't make God unworthy of worship. Is this easy? Absolutely not. Will we always respond like Job? Likely not. But our faith in who God is can enable us to worship Him even when we're hurting.

SUFFERING CAN LEAD TO A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF GOD

READ JOB 42:1-6

Context: In previous chapters, Job's friends argued that his suffering must've been because of his sin; they explained that this was how God's justice worked. But we know this wasn't the case (1:8). Job defended his innocence and even accused God of being unjust (9:17). He longed to question God in person; he longed to understand (chap. 23). God answered Job out of a whirlwind (chaps. 38–41), pointing out that because of His perfect wisdom, He alone can hold the entire world together. This humbled Job, and that humility is evident in his final response to the Lord.

WHAT DOES JOB'S RESPONSE REVEAL HE REALIZED ABOUT GOD? WHAT DID THIS PROMPT HIM TO DO?

Job realized that God had a perfect view of all human life and the world while he only saw fragments. **He realized God was the only One capable of holding all things together in His wisdom and that suffering didn't make God unjust.** Job was humbled and repented of speaking rashly about God. He moved from hearing about God to seeing and knowing God.



GOD LATER BLESSED JOB WITH DOUBLE WHAT HE LOST, EVEN GIVING HIM MORE CHILDREN (42:10-17). HOW COULD THIS FORESHADOW WHAT CHRIST DOES FOR US?

Job was blessed to receive double what he had lost. While this isn't always the case for us, knowing Jesus ensures that we are blessed in heaven. **Christ's death and resurrection means that one day all of our pain will cease and our tears will be no more (Rev. 21:4).** It means that our pain is never wasted when we bring it before God and allow it to help us know Him more intimately. Because of Christ, we can experience complete peace now and for all eternity.

WRAP-UP

JOB WRESTLED WITH WHO GOD WAS AND ASKED QUESTIONS, BUT GOD DIDN'T PUNISH HIM FOR IT. WHAT DOES THIS REVEAL ABOUT GOD? HOW COULD JOB'S EXAMPLE HELP YOU WITH YOUR OWN QUESTIONS?

Maybe you were taught that it's never okay to ask God questions or that questioning is a form of doubt or disrespect. But we don't see this in Job's story. When Job asked questions concerning his circumstances or even concerning God's justice, he was motivated by a longing to understand. **And this is the crucial truth about our questions: They must come from a desire to know God or to see our sin.** So often, our questions come from a desire for vindication or desire to prove God wrong. But Job longed to know God even in his suffering. He longed to know why it was happening, especially if it was due to his own sin. God isn't uncomfortable with our questions. We can take them to Him and trust He'll reveal the answers we need.