

WE SIT WITH JOB

Monday July 11th - Read Job 3:1-10. The patient Job of chapters 1-2 gives way to the anguished Job, who curses the day of his birth. His friends, who started out well, offering him their comforting presence in silence for 7 days (Job 2:13), now offer him advice instead. They claim that the innocent don't perish, but Job's experience (and ours) says otherwise. They claim that suffering is the result of sin, that Job must have done something wrong to deserve such suffering. *How does Job's response contrast to his first words about God as his suffering begins?*

Tuesday, July 12th – Read Job 4:1-9. Job's friends are useless theologians; they talk endlessly about God without ever speaking to God on behalf of their friend. Job is more direct. He begins by speaking about God, but then moves more and more to speaking to God, beginning in chapter 7. (For this, he will be commended by God at the end of the book.) *How often do we talk "about" God and forget that through Jesus we can directly reach out to God? What good is Biblical knowledge if we never talk "to" the Author?*

Wednesday, July 13th – Read Job 7:11-21. Job's response is more honest: He laments. He calls a spade a spade. He holds on to his integrity, knowing that he has done nothing to deserve his suffering. He speaks directly to God about his suffering and holds God accountable to God's promises. In this, he echoes the psalmists. *I find Job's words inspirational. I am inspired that he sticks up for himself. How does Job inspire you? What does it teach us about suffering? Whose fault is it that the innocent suffer?*

Thursday, July 14th - Read Job 6:1-30. How do we react to suffering, ourselves or someone else's? Are we honest or do we say only what we think we should say? Job's laments give us permission to lament, to bring our deepest hurts, fears and anger to God in prayer and to know that God hears. *What does Job teach about how to approach our own suffering and the suffering of others?*

Friday, July 15th - Read Psalms 22:12-21, 143:7-12, Job 6:8-13. Job isn't praying. The relationship that ties someone to God that enables prayer has been shattered for Job. So he uses the jagged bits of a prayerful language to try and communicate. Traditionally, those who prayed psalms of lament begged God for life because they were near death. Job wishes for death and turns the language of prayer upside down. His "hope" for death is the flipside of Eliphaz's hope for the future. *How do you see Job's response concerning "hope?" Do you identify with Job or Eliphaz?*

Saturday, July 16th - Read Jeremiah 20:7. The words or the "anti-psalms" that Job is uttering are important because of the sense of betrayal. Job dares to say what we all think during times of pain. Job openly talks about a God who seems to make a mockery of everything Job relied upon. The Bible doesn't shy away from this way of talking to God and although Job's speeches are the best example in the entire Bible for words of protest against God, Jeremiah does it too. It means that it is okay to be mad at God. It is okay to feel what you feel. We will see later with Job when God speaks, what it all really means and what power we really have (spoiler alert: we have no power). *When have you been mad at God? How does shaking your fist at heaven and being angry actually help you process your situation better? Where is the grace in anger with God?*

Love: How do these devotions teach about the love of God and the love for one another?

Learn: What have you learned about where Jesus walked that helps you with where you walk?

Share: What key insights have you learned this week on how to share your faith with others?

Serve: Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

Healing Strength: Chris Rosemeyer, Deloris Wessell (Barb McCormack's sister), Linda Stephenson, Chris & Katie Hamon, Charlie Walters, Mary Schmidt, Rex Townsend, Stan Enschede, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb's daughter), Janet Coons (Donna McCullough's daughter)

Sympathies: Family of JoAnn Potts

Homebound Members: Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

Military Personnel: Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark

WE SIT WITH JOB

Monday July 11th - Read Job 3:1-10. The patient Job of chapters 1-2 gives way to the anguished Job, who curses the day of his birth. His friends, who started out well, offering him their comforting presence in silence for 7 days (Job 2:13), now offer him advice instead. They claim that the innocent don't perish, but Job's experience (and ours) says otherwise. They claim that suffering is the result of sin, that Job must have done something wrong to deserve such suffering. *How does Job's response contrast to his first words about God as his suffering begins?*

Tuesday, July 12th – Read Job 4:1-9. Job's friends are useless theologians; they talk endlessly about God without ever speaking to God on behalf of their friend. Job is more direct. He begins by speaking about God, but then moves more and more to speaking to God, beginning in chapter 7. (For this, he will be commended by God at the end of the book.) *How often do we talk “about” God and forget that through Jesus we can directly reach out to God? What good is Biblical knowledge if we never talk “to” the Author?*

Wednesday, July 13th – Read Job 7:11-21. Job's response is more honest: He laments. He calls a spade a spade. He holds on to his integrity, knowing that he has done nothing to deserve his suffering. He speaks directly to God about his suffering and holds God accountable to God's promises. In this, he echoes the psalmists. *I find Job's words inspirational. I am inspired that he sticks up for himself. How does Job inspire you? What does it teach us about suffering? Whose fault is it that the innocent suffer?*

Thursday, July 14th - Read Job 6:1-30. How do we react to suffering, ourselves or someone else's? Are we honest or do we say only what we think we should say? Job's laments give us permission to lament, to bring our deepest hurts, fears and anger to God in prayer and to know that God hears. *What does Job teach about how to approach our own suffering and the suffering of others?*

Friday, July 15th - Read Psalms 22:12-21, 143:7-12, Job 6:8-13. Job isn't praying. The relationship that ties someone to God that enables prayer has been shattered for Job. So he uses the jagged bits of a prayerful language to try and communicate. Traditionally, those who prayed psalms of lament begged God for life because they were near death. Job wishes for death and turns the language of prayer upside down. His “hope” for death is the flipside of Eliphaz's hope for the future. *How do you see Job's response concerning “hope?” Do you identify with Job or Eliphaz?*

Saturday, July 16th - Read Jeremiah 20:7. The words or the “anti-psalms” that Job is uttering are important because of the sense of betrayal. Job dares to say what we all think during times of pain. Job openly talks about a God who seems to make a mockery of everything Job relied upon. The Bible doesn't shy away from this way of talking to God and although Job's speeches are the best example in the entire Bible for words of protest against God, Jeremiah does it too. It means that it is okay to be mad at God. It is okay to feel what you feel. We will see later with Job when God speaks, what it all really means and what power we really have (spoiler alert: we have no power). *When have you been mad at God? How does shaking your fist at heaven and being angry actually help you process your situation better? Where is the grace in anger with God?*

Love: How do these devotions teach about the love of God and the love for one another?

Learn: What have you learned about where Jesus walked that helps you with where you walk?

Share: What key insights have you learned this week on how to share your faith with others?

Serve: Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

Healing Strength: Chris Rosemeyer, Deloris Wessell (Barb McCormack's sister), Linda Stephenson, Chris & Katie Hamon, Charlie Walters, Mary Schmidt, Rex Townsend, Stan Enschede, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb's daughter), Janet Coons (Donna McCullough's daughter)

Sympathies: Family of JoAnn Potts

Homebound Members: Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

Military Personnel: Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark