



## **Getting started with Job**

Suffering hurts.

It's hard to know how to respond. Doubts and questions fill our minds. Can God be trusted?

The book of Job gets to the raw emotions of a suffering believer. He loses virtually everything (ch1-2), but clings on to the one thing he still has – his faithful Creator God.

This book is a back and forth conversation between Job, his friends and his God, as they wrestle with Job's painful circumstances.

Job is an example for us of how to suffer well. This book is an honest and rich answer to the problem of human suffering, a precious reminder that God is in control and God is always good – even when we can't see what's going on behind the scenes.

The book of Job shows us that the obedient suffering of a believer brings glory to God.

### **Structure**

#### ***Chapters 1-2 – Job's suffering***

Job is a righteous man, a God-fearer. Satan needs permission to test Job, and see if he's just in it for the benefits. Bad news follows bad news, and soon Job has nothing left.

#### ***Chapters 3-31 – Job's comforters***

The bulk of the book follows the conversation between Job and 3 friends. There are 3 cycles of speech, during which his "comforters" repeatedly insist that Job's suffering is a direct result of his sin, despite Job's insistence that he isn't walking in sin. His friends have no room in their theology for an innocent sufferer, so their conclusion is: "you must deserve it."

## **Chapters 32-42 – Job’s true comfort**

A fourth friend paves the way for Job’s source of true comfort: God finally speaks. It is striking that God doesn’t directly answer Job’s complaints, but rather reminds Job of who He is!

### **Things to watch out for...**

- There are times where Job speaks wrongly of God, and has to repent at the end of the book. Be aware that not everything he says about God is true!
- It’s the same for his friends – there is truth in what they say, but their logic is fatally flawed because they can’t understand innocent suffering.
- The role of Job’s fourth friend, Elihu, is a little unclear – is he just as useless as the other friends, or does he have a better understanding of who God is?

### **Jesus in Job**

Job is an innocent sufferer. This foreshadows the perfect obedience and undeserved suffering of the Lord Jesus.

In fact, Job only truly makes sense because of the cross. Jesus’ pattern was suffering followed by glory – and we need that long term perspective if we are going to embrace suffering in this life.

### **How is it relevant today?**

This book shows us how to suffer well. It also gives us insight into how to support others who are going through suffering.

Job also helps to give us a big view of God – the bigger our view of Him, the easier we will find it to trust Him through tough times.



## RBT Grow Group is on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

Bring along some things from your reading of  
Job to share with others.

### **Some RBT reading ideas:**

- Meet up once a week to read it with a friend.
- Listen online at [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com)
- Write down a verse that struck you that day.
- Encourage someone by texting them a thought from what you've read.

### **Grow 1:1 questions to unlock the passage:**

**What** does this teach me about God?

**How** does this point me to the Lord Jesus and His cross?

**What** does this teach me about myself?

**How** does this help me to pray?

**What** difference will this make to my week?



Here are some questions the Bible wants you to ask of itself. Use these to help you as you read your way through this month's book: (please don't feel like you have to fill in every question in loads of detail. These are a guide to help you learn from what you are reading.)

- What did you learn about Jesus and what it means to trust him? (Luke 24:45-47)
- What did you learn about yourself? (James 1:23 & 2 Tim 3:16-17)
- How were you corrected or rebuked or equipped for every good work? (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- What did you learn from the book that will help you keep going as a follower of Jesus? (Romans 15:4)
- What did you learn that will help you serve and build up the church? (Eph 4:11-16)
- What have you learnt that helps you love the Lord your God with all your heart & with all your soul & with all your mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
- What has helped you love your neighbour as yourself? (Matt 22:37-40)