

TRUSTING GOD WHEN LIFE MAKES NO SENSE

The Book of Job

Mike Taylor

www.TaylorNotes.Info

Lesson 1: “When Everything Falls Apart”

Suppose that in a single week you lost your possessions, your livelihood, several people you loved, and then your health. You had prayed, tried to live faithfully, and could identify no obvious reason for what was happening. What would happen to your faith?



The book opens by introducing Job as a man of exceptional integrity who fears God and lives righteously. Behind the scenes, a heavenly conversation reveals Satan's challenge that Job only serves God because of his blessings. God permits Satan to test Job, resulting in the loss of his wealth, servants, and children. When Job remains faithful, a second test follows in which he is afflicted with painful sores from head to foot. Despite

overwhelming loss and suffering, Job refuses to curse God, demonstrating remarkable faith at the beginning of his trials.

LESSON GOAL

The goal of this first lesson is to understand why suffering is not always punishment for sin. We may not understand what God is doing, but genuine faith can continue to trust His character even when His purposes remain hidden.

GETTING STARTED: READ JOB CHAPTERS 1 AND 2

- Job's Character and Blessings — Job 1:1–5
- Satan Challenges Job's Faith — Job 1:6–12
- Job Loses Almost Everything — Job 1:13–22
- Satan Challenges Job Again — Job 2:1–6
- Job Loses His Health — Job 2:7–10
- Job's Friends Come to Comfort Him — Job 2:11–13

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think God emphasizes Job's character before telling us about his suffering? — Job 1:1, 8

Leader Answer/Comment: The opening makes it clear that Job's suffering was not punishment for some obvious sin. God Himself describes Job as "blameless and upright." This challenges the common assumption that when something bad happens, the person must have done something to deserve it. Sometimes faithful people suffer for reasons they cannot see or understand.

2. Satan claimed that Job worshiped God only because God had blessed him. What does this challenge us to examine about our own relationship with God? — Job 1:9–11

Leader Answer/Comment: Satan's accusation raises one of the central questions of the book: Do we love God for who He is, or primarily for what He gives us? It is relatively easy to praise God when life is going well. Genuine faith is revealed when we continue trusting Him when His blessings seem to disappear.

3. What impresses you most about Job's response after losing his possessions and children? — Job 1:20–22

Leader Answer/Comment: Job did not pretend that everything was fine. He tore his robe, shaved his head, and grieved deeply. Yet in the middle of his grief, he worshiped God. Biblical faith does not mean denying our pain. Job shows us that grief and faith can exist together. We can hurt deeply and still trust God.

4. Job's friends eventually gave him some very poor advice, but what did they do right in Job 2:11–13? What can we learn from their example?

Leader Answer/Comment: They came to Job, wept with him, and sat silently beside him for seven days. At this point they did not try to explain his suffering or offer easy answers. Sometimes the most helpful ministry to a hurting person is simply our presence. We do not always need to explain suffering; sometimes we need to "weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15).

5. Does feeling angry or frustrated when going through difficult times mean you are not exercising your faith? Why or why not?

No. Honest emotions are not the opposite of faith. Many faithful believers expressed grief, confusion, frustration, and even anger before God. David poured out his heart in the Psalms (Psalm 13; Psalm 22). Jeremiah lamented his suffering (Jeremiah 20:7–18).

Even Job questioned God repeatedly, yet God still declared that Job had spoken more rightly than his friends (Job 42:7).

The important question is not whether we have difficult emotions, but where we take those emotions. Faith brings our questions, fears, and frustrations to God rather than turning away from Him. Unbelief rejects God's character; faith continues to trust Him even while asking hard questions.

As one writer has observed, faith is not the absence of questions—it is continuing to trust God while seeking His answers.

FIVE TAKE-AWAYS FROM THIS LESSON

- Faith does not require **knowing all the answers**.
- God is always working even when we **cannot see it**.
- Honest questions are not the **opposite of faith**.
- Our greatest need is not an explanation—but a deeper **knowledge of God**.
- God may not remove every trial, but He always **remains present**.