

# Why!?!?

When God doesn't make sense

The book of Job



## Growth Group Discussion Questions

### 2. When there is nothing left but God

#### Read Job 2

1. By way of review – and in order to understand verse 1-2 – ***explain what the word ‘Satan’ means and discuss how this name describes one of his primary roles. Hint: see Revelation 12:9-11***
2. After experiencing intense loss, Job still worships God although he now has nothing. ***What does God especially commend Job in verse 3 for, and therefore, what is one of the good outcomes that going through bad times achieves?***
3. In essence, God says to Satan, ‘Job really loves me, from the heart, not for what he can get out of it.’ ***Looking closely at verse 4-5 in your own words describe what Satan’s answer to God is. How accurate do you think Satan’s accusation is in our age of modern medicine of anaesthetics, pain killers and our obsession with comfort?***

The second test

4. ***Looking at verse 7-8, what was the second test Job had to endure? Think back to a time you really suffered physically. What were you tempted to think about God and your relationship with Him?***

The third test

5. Look closely at verse 9. ***Compare Job’s experience with Adam and Solomon (see 1 Kings 11:1-4). What do you think made this test so extremely difficult? What role should Job’s wife have played according to Genesis 2? What are some of the ways you can make your husband/wife’s relationship with God easier or harder?***
6. ***Discuss what you think Job means in his response to all his suffering in verse 10? Any surprises?***
7. ***In what way does Job’s experience point us forward to Jesus and His suffering? What does Jesus’ experience of suffering tell us about God’s love for us? Hint: see Romans 5:6-8***
8. We have only just begun our journey in the book of Job by looking at the two introductory chapters. ***What are some of the things that have surprised so far in the book of Job? How, if at all, have your thoughts about God and your relationship been challenged so far? What questions do you hope will be answered as we continue in the book?***

## Leaders Notes

1. The word 'Satan' means 'opposer' or 'adversary' or, as I think best explains it, 'prosecutor'. Satan's role is to accuse God's people before God in order to get God against them. This is why he wanders to and fro through the earth.
2. God especially commends Job for his integrity. Integrity is when what's inside you is congruous with what's outside of you. The opposite of integrity is hypocrisy. God says through the prophet Isaiah, "These people draw near to me with their lips but their hearts are far from me." One of the good outcomes of suffering is that we get to see what's really inside us. Suffering brings out what's really in there. Everyone looks like the real deal in good times but suffering exposes who's faith is shallow and superficial. Throughout history, suffering has always purged the church of hypocrites and spectators.
3. Satan says that Job doesn't really love God. Job prefers his health and his life. If you touch his health and his life, then you will see that he doesn't love you at all. For thousands of years people, both believers and unbelievers went through incredible suffering. Suffering was normal. Headaches were to be endured. Toothache could almost kill you. Operations – if any – were done with no pain killers. No wonder it never occurred to the vast majority of Christians that suffering was abnormal and no wonder the health, wealth and prosperity gospel was virtually non-existent. In our age, because of modern medicine, suddenly we have a preoccupation with healing and things like that. And, it makes one wonder if our love for God is only skin deep. As Satan says of Job.
4. The second test (the first test was the loss of all his possessions and all his children), is loss of health. Job suffered acute physical torment.
5. The reason this test is almost impossible is because Job is being tested through someone he loved. Yes, he loved his children too. But what is the greatest love under the Sun if not the love between a husband and wife? And here the 'love of his life' tempts him to curse God. Maybe she was heart-broken about his suffering and wanted him to die to end his pain – who knows what her motives were? The essence of the test is that Job ought to give up on God because God has abandoned him. There is no reason to carry on. There is nothing left. Little does she realise, by tempting him, she herself has abandoned her role as a helper – Job really is alone. Wouldn't it have been great if she had encouraged him to keep going, and he could have said, 'Well darling, I still have you.' But Job couldn't even say that.
6. For Job God is everything. Job only has one concern in the Universe and that is God. And most reasonably, Job says that since we receive every good thing from God, why is it unreasonable that we should not also accept every bad thing from God? Job is not saying God is the 'first cause' of suffering. God uses 'secondary causes'. God doesn't reach down from heaven, stick His finger into our tyre and give us a puncture – a nail lying in the road does that. But God is the First Cause of everything. Nothing in the Universe happens without His say-so. For this reason Job doesn't even bother about secondary causes and deals with God directly. It is a surprise to the biblically illiterate version of Christianity today that God would ever give us 'evil'. By the way, the 'evil' God gives is not morally evil. God is never tempted by evil nor does He tempt anyone – as the book of James tells us. By 'evil' Job simply means bad things. The surprise for modern man is to understand the truth that God does give us bad things... BUT... according to Romans 8 they are always for our good.
7. Jesus Christ is the Ultimate Innocent Sufferer. He was tested in every way and yet without sin. There was no reason why Jesus should suffer. But there is every reason why we should suffer. He suffered for our sins and the punishment that we deserve was upon Him. Job points forward to this. And through His unfair suffering, Jesus not only shows His infinite love for the Father, but, amazingly, He demonstrates the Father's limitless love for us.
8. Up to the Growth Group.