

# Bible Reading Notes

March 2019 – Job

*These notes are easy to install on most phones or tablets.*

*Install the 'PrayerMate' App and you'll find it under 'subscribe to online feeds' and 'Devotional'. It's called St Philemon's Bible Notes. If you have any problems, email [alicecornes@gmail.com](mailto:alicecornes@gmail.com)*

## How to use these Bible reading notes

These Bible reading notes are a resource to help you dig into God's word and allow it to change your life. 'A little and often' is a good motto. If you miss a day (or several!), don't feel guilty or try to catch up; just pick up wherever the notes have got to. Here's a guide to get the most out of these notes:

1. Find a time and place where you can be quiet but awake.
2. Ask God to help you understand.
3. Use the notes to help you think about the passage:
  - *'Read' sections get you thinking for yourself about the verses.*
  - *'Apply' sections suggest how they make a difference to you and how to pray in response.*
4. Pray about what you have read.
5. Look for an opportunity to share with someone what God has told you.

## Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Job is about suffering and perseverance. It may raise more questions than answers. That's okay because it's also about God – the sovereign, good God working out His purposes. Job points us to The One who suffered, but who 'entrusted himself to him who judges justly.'

### Read Job 1:1-5

- What do we learn about Job's life?
- How is he described (v1, v3b)? 'Blameless doesn't mean 'sinless' (see 13:26). It's about integrity.
- How would you summarise Job's life?

We don't know exactly when Job lived or how much he knew about the God of Israel, but his desire to honour God is clear.

- What was Job's regular custom after family parties? Why?
- What does this tell us about Job's understanding:
  - of his family?
  - of God?

### Apply

Job's life seemed happy and prosperous, and he is described as 'blameless'. But Job knew that sacrifice to a holy God is necessary because sin is the problem of every human heart.

- Do you take your sin as seriously as Job?
- Could God describe you as 'blameless and upright' and one who 'fears the Lord and shuns evil'?

## **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

In verses 1-5 we were introduced to the 'blameless and upright' Job. In today's verses, the camera moves from Job to the heavenly throne room.

### **Read Job 1:6-10**

- Who do we meet in these verses?
- What's the situation?
- How does the LORD describe Job to Satan? (v8)
- Does this surprise you? Why/Why not?
- What does Satan conclude about Job's life? (v9-10)

Satan ascribes Job's character and fear of the Lord to his blessed life. He doesn't believe that Job's godly character results from a genuine fear of God so much as from the comfortable life he enjoys.

### **Read Job 1:11-12**

- How does Satan challenge God's verdict? (v11)
- Does God's response to Satan in v12 surprise you? Why/Why not?

God allows Satan free reign over Job's possessions in response to Satan's accusation. God will show Satan what is actually true about Job's life and heart.

### **Apply**

- What do these verses teach us about God's power and authority over this world/our lives?
- What is true, therefore, about the power and extent of Satan's work in this world/our lives?

## **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

Job's life is about to change dramatically. We need at this point to fast forward for a moment to consider the lens through which we must read everything that is to come. **Read Job 42:7**. Hold on to this as we continue...

### **Read Job 1:13-19**

- Job is 'hit' with four consecutive attacks. What do you notice about them? What form do they take?
- What aspects of Job's life are affected?
- How would you sum up Job's loss?

Job has been attacked on every side. His situation couldn't look more different to his life in v1-3.

- How would you expect Job to respond?

### **Read Job 1:20-22**

- How does Job respond? What does he recognise about himself? About God? His possessions?
- How is Job's response summed up in v22?
- Are you surprised by Job's response? Why/Why not?

### **Apply**

- How does Job's view of his life, possessions and family compare with your view of yours?
- Do Job's words, in v21b challenge you?
- Pray for the same attitude in times of suffering

## Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March

### Read Job 2:1-6

- What situation is presented in v1-2? (see 1:6-7)
- What is God's verdict on Job in verse 3?

Despite the dramatic change in Job's life and situation, God's verdict on Job is the same as in 1:8.

- How does Satan respond to God this time? What is Satan's assessment? (vv4-5)
- What authority does God give to Satan now? (v6)

### Read Job 2:7-10

- What result do Satan's actions lead to this time?
- Where does Job 'end up'? (v8)

Job has one person left in the world – his wife.

- What is her response to Job's situation?
- What is Job's response to his 'lot'?

### Apply

Once again Job does not sin in his response to his suffering (v10b).

- What do we learn from these verses about the work and intent of Satan?
- What does Job tell us is most important in all circumstances? v10
- How does Job's unwavering trust in the LORD's perfect character help us/challenge us in times of hardship?

## Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Job is suffering in the extreme and we won't hear any more from God for another 36 chapters.

### Read Job 2:11-13

- Who do we meet? How are they described?
- What was their purpose in visiting Job?
- How do they react? What does their reaction tell us about the extent of Job's suffering?
- Given the friends' intention to comfort Job in his suffering, how do you assess their efforts?

Job's suffering is extensive. It is difficult to imagine greater suffering coming as intensely and quickly. But at each point Job has demonstrated his belief that God is always worthy of worship (1:21).

But Jesus' suffering blows Job's out of the water. Job suffered pain, loss, abandonment and isolation. Jesus suffered even more.

**Read Mark 15:34.** Jesus gave up the glory of heaven to suffer and die in the place of his enemies. He was abandoned so that we can be welcomed.

- How will remembering Jesus' suffering help you in times of suffering?
- What truths of God's character do we need to hold on to?
- Give thanks that Jesus suffered so that we don't need to in eternity.

## Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March

### Read Job 3:1-4

- What does Job curse? (N.B. what he doesn't curse)
- What does this say about how he compares his suffering to the value of his whole life? (see 1:3)

### Read Job 3:11-13

- What do Job's questions reveal about what he longs for?
- How do Job's 'feelings' here seem to eclipse what he knows is true? (see 1:5, 20-21, 2:10)

### Read Job 3:20-22

- What is the essence of Job's questions here?
- How would you sum up his experience in a word?

It's important to remember two things at this point:

1. God has declared Job to be 'blameless and upright'.
2. Job has no knowledge of the 'heavenly' meetings that took place and so doesn't know God's purposes.

Job still has an awareness of God. His questioning suggests he believes there may be answers.

### Apply

- Have you ever felt helpless like Job? What might we be in danger of forgetting during these times?
- How will remembering God's sovereign purposes for Job help you when you are suffering?

## Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

God has declared Job to be 'blameless' (right in God's sight). Job's friends have a different worldview which colours everything they say. For time's sake, we will look at sections of Job. If you have more time, read the verses in between as well. Remember **Job 42:7!**

### Read Job 4:1-8

- What is Eliphaz's point in v1-6?
- What do we glean of Eliphaz's worldview in v7-8?

Eliphaz takes the Old Testament teaching (Deut 28) of disobedience → curse, and concludes that curse must therefore mean disobedience. This is not true.

- What does Eliphaz's worldview not allow for?
- How does the cross of Jesus answer Eliphaz's worldview?

### Read Job 5:17

- What does Eliphaz encourage Job to do?

The Lord *does* discipline his people (Heb 12), but Job's situation is different. Eliphaz's words bring little comfort to Job who isn't suffering *because* of his sin.

### Apply

- How have you/do you think about times of suffering? Do you try to make sense of it according to your own reasoning or God's Word?



## Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

We have heard the opinions and advice from the first of Job's friends. Now Job responds to Eliphaz.

### Read Job 6:8-10

- What does Job long for? (v8-9)
- What's his one desire in the meantime? (v10b)

Even in extreme suffering, Job doesn't want to sin. God will assess Job's words as 'right' in the end of the book.

### Read Job 6:28

- What does Job want from his friends?

Then, in ch.7, Job turns his attention to God. He grapples to reconcile what he knows is true of God with his present experience of suffering.

### Read Job 7:17-21 (*if time, read the whole chapter*)

Job asks why God makes so much of him in v17. (see Psalm 8)

Job continues to wrestle with the question of 'why'? Remember that Job doesn't know about God's conversation with Satan.

### Apply

- How does the suffering of the innocent Lord Jesus help us to understand Job's suffering?
- What one hope must we hold on to in suffering?

## Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March

Eliphaz was no help. Now Bildad speaks.

### Read Job 8:1-7

- What does he know is true of God? (v3)
- What does Bildad assume about why Job's children died?
- What does Bildad urge Job to do? (v5-6)

Bildad's starting point is correct. God is good and just. But, like Eliphaz, Bildad assumes that Job's suffering must indicate sin in his life.

### Read Job 8:20

- On what fundamental misunderstanding does Bildad's worldview rest?

Job now speaks about God...

### Read Job 9:32-35

- What does Job know about God? About himself?

Job longs for a mediator between himself and God; one to plead his case. In ch.10 he continues questioning God's actions and longing to die.

### Apply

- What does Job's response teach about 'where' to go in our suffering?
- **Read 1 Timothy 2:5.** Jesus is our longed-for mediator. What comfort do we find in Jesus?

## **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

Eliphaz and Bildad were no help. Now Bildad speaks.

### **Read Job 11:1-6 and v13-15**

- How do we see Zophar's skewed worldview?  
What does he get wrong? (v4, v6, v13-15)

Zophar promises blessing to Job if he repents. But Job has no secret sin. God said in ch.1 he is 'blameless'.

### **Read Job 13:18-19**

- What is Job confident about? (v19)

### **Read Job 14:14-17**

Job pleads with God. He doesn't plead sinlessness but cries out for God's mercy. He doesn't understand why God seems to be treating him according to his sins, knowing his sin has been dealt with by sacrifice (see 1:4-5). But there is a glimmer of hope. Job understands something of the hope of resurrection and that sin will be finally dealt with.

### **Apply**

Job foreshadows believers who will suffer, not because of their sin but because they follow Jesus who suffered. Like Job, we have the certain hope of resurrection because Jesus defeated sin and death.

- How does the certainty of resurrection change both the concept and experience of suffering?

## **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March**

We've completed the first lap of speeches. Job has got no further in understanding his suffering. Eliphaz comes back for Round 2. This time he is less patient.

### **Read Job 15:24-26**

- Eliphaz paints a picture of a sinful and miserable life (like Job's). What does he attribute it to?
- How do Eliphaz's words show that he doesn't grasp God's grace?

### **Read Job 16:1-5**

- What does Job think of his friends' 'comfort'?

Job goes on to say he is convinced that his suffering isn't a result of unconfessed sin but cries out because he doesn't understand it. Job then turns to God...

### **Read Job 16:18-21**

- What does Job understand in his confusion?

Job holds on to the belief that God will intercede for him. We can know with even greater confidence that we can face death because we have a Mediator to intercede for us.

- How does Jesus give us confidence in the face of suffering and death?

## Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Bildad responds to Job in Round 2 of their debate.

### Read Job 18:1-3

- What does Bildad make of Job's responses?

Bildad now paints an accurate picture of Hell. He then applies this with his defective worldview...

### Read Job 18:5-21

- Who is it that Bildad depicts in v5 and v21?
- According to Bildad, what is in store for this man?
- What does Bildad believe is true of Job?

Bildad has a clear view of Hell. But he assigns it to Job - he thinks Job must be evil, because of his suffering. Bildad thinks suffering is always a punishment.

### Apply

- How do **1:1, 1:8 and 2:3, 2:10b** refute Bildad's worldview?
- What dangers are there in presuming to interpret the reason for our suffering?
- How do Jesus' suffering and death answer Bildad?
- How do these examples help us to persevere as we suffer?

## Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Job has again been pummelled with a friend's foolish words in his time of suffering. Now he responds.

### Read Job 19:1-6

- How does Job feel about the way that God is treating him?

Remember God's verdict in 42:7. Here, Job is wrestling between his experience and his knowledge of God.

### Read Job 19:21-7

- Job doesn't think he is being struck by Satan. Who does he feel struck by?
- What surprising truth does Job know and declare? (v25-26) Where is Job's certain hope rooted?

Job's friends don't believe suffering can come to innocent people or that God can use it for redemptive purposes. Despite Job's longing to understand 'why', he knows that he will be vindicated one day.

### Apply

- Have you ever felt isolated and abandoned?

**Read Mark 15:34.** Because Jesus was abandoned by His Father, Christians will never be abandoned by Him, however we feel.

- Will you, like Job hold on to the certain hope of v25-26 even in the midst of suffering?

## **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

Zophar (again) applies his skewed understanding of God and His dealings with His people to Job.

(If you have time read both chapters).

### **Read Job 20:4-7**

- What does Zophar think is in store for the wicked?

Zophar understands wickedness must be punished. What he doesn't understand is who the wicked are, and when God's punishment will take place. Zophar believes God's punishment will be seen in this life.

Then Job replies with a different view of the wicked...

### **Read Job 21:7-16**

- What picture of the wicked does Job respond with?
- What is the attitude of the wicked person toward God? (v14-15)

### **Apply**

- Do you ever consider your experience of life as unfair because you're a Christian and think you 'deserve' better? What have you got wrong in your thinking?
- How will remembering God's justice in eternity help you to persevere in the present?

## Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March

We come to the final round of speeches. As before, much of what Eliphaz says is true but because of his defective worldview, most of what he says is wrong.

### Read Job 22:4-11, 21

- What picture of Job does Eliphaz paint?
- What does Eliphaz instruct Job to do in response?

Then Job responds...

### Read Job 23:11-15

- What does Job remain confident of? (v11-12)
- What is Job's response to the Almighty?

Job then talks about the wicked...

### Read Job 24:22-25

- How does the present reality of the wicked compare with the end that Job is confident of for them? (v24)

Job recognises that God will one day judge the wicked, but he is confident of *his* standing before God despite the confusion he feels regarding his present suffering.

### Apply

- Why is the certainty of God's future judgement on evil a helpful thing to remember in suffering?



## **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

Today we hear from the last of the three friends.

### **Read Job 25**

- What does Bildad get right in his view of God and humans? What hasn't he grasped?
- Does Bildad have any hope?

Job then recounts God's wisdom throughout all of creation yet realises that it's beyond man's understanding (26:14). If you have time read 26:1-14.

### **Read Job 27:11-19**

- How does Job describe God's judgement?
- What is Job's challenge to people who trust in things other than God?

### **Apply**

- What does Job teach us in his suffering?
- What aspects of God's character can we be confident in?

## **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

- How would you sum up Job's friends' answer to his question of 'why'? Why isn't this true?

This chapter is unique. Job hasn't got any closer to the answer to 'why' but ch 28 gives Job the truth he needs to hear rather than the information he wants to gain.

### **Read Job 28:1-4 (v1-11 if you have time)**

- What lengths are taken to find treasures?
- What does this tell us about their value?

### **Read Job 28:12-15, 28 (v12-28 if time)**

- What are we introduced to? (v12) How does this compare with treasures (like those in the verses before)?
- What do we learn about wisdom and what it is?

Job 'feared God and shunned evil' (ch.1) – exactly what wisdom is! Yet Job hasn't got answers to his questions.

- How would this understanding of wisdom help Job as he questions God? How does it help us?

### **Apply**

- How does this true wisdom compare with what we think wisdom is/where we look for wisdom?

### **Read Colossians 2:2-3**

- What do we learn about Christ? How will this help us as we persevere in trials and ask questions?

## **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

We arrive at Job's final speech. He has battled through suffering, false accusations, feelings of abandonment and unanswered questions. Today we'll see even more clearly the One he foreshadows.

### **Read Job 29:1-6**

- What was Job's life like in the past?

### **Skim read Job 30:20-23**

- What is Job's experience now?
- To what does Job attribute this change?

In Job 31, Job lists 10 areas of sin and his integrity with regard to each one. Job doesn't claim sinlessness but he claims integrity. He hasn't hidden unconfessed sin from the Lord.

### **Apply**

- How does Job's experience of suffering here point you to Jesus' suffering?

### **Read 1 John 1:8-9**

- How can we be confident, standing before God?
- Does this confidence necessarily mean that we will understand all the experiences of our lives?

## Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Today, we're introduced to Elihu. He has been listening in and is 'very angry with Job for justifying himself rather than God' and 'angry with the three friends because they had found no way to refute Job and yet had condemned him.' Now he speaks...

### Read Job 33:8-14

- How does Elihu summarise Job's argument? Do you think it's an accurate summary?
- What is Elihu's response to this?

Elihu then outlines two ways in which God speaks to His people. God speaks through conscience (v14-18) and suffering (v19-22). Elihu wants Job to recognise that God uses suffering for His greater purposes.

### Read Job 33:29-30

- What is God's purpose for speaking through suffering? (v29-30)
- What aspects of God's character do we see through this lens?

### Apply

- Do Elihu's words help us in our understanding of what suffering is and why God purposes it?
- **Read 1 Peter 3:18.** Praise God for His greater purpose of rescue through suffering!

## **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

Yesterday Elihu made the point that God speaks through conscience and suffering, if Job would listen.

### **Read Job 34:5-12, 31-33**

Elihu addresses what Job has said previously.

- What does Elihu accuse Job of? (vv7-9)
- What is Elihu's understanding of God? (v10-12)
- What does Elihu want Job to do? (v31-33)

### **Read Job 35:9-13**

- Who is crying out in Elihu's example? (v9-13)
- Why doesn't God answer them?
- What is Elihu saying? Do think this is fair?

Later in Job, God comments on Job's and his three friends' words but makes no comment on Elihu's.

### **Apply**

- What does Job's experience teach us about the attitude that we must come to God with when we are suffering and confused?

## **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March**

Elihu comes to his conclusion in these chapters. He wants Job to lift his eyes to the glory of the Almighty and to respond accordingly.

### **Read Job 36:5-15**

- What does Elihu understand about God?
- What does Elihu say is God's purpose in suffering? (v9-10)
- What response does Elihu desire from Job?

Elihu has sought to answer Job's questions; he hasn't pulled his punches as he has shown Job that God speaks even through suffering itself and that God is just because He is God and cannot be otherwise.

Elihu then ends his speech by reminding Job of who God is and what He is like. (Read it in **37:14-24** if you have time)

### **Apply**

- Where must we turn when we are tempted to question God's righteous character?
- How is the cross of Jesus, the perfect example of both innocent suffering and God's perfect justice?

## **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

- How would you sum up Job's battle so far?
- What does he long for?

Now God responds personally to Job.

### **Read Job 38:1-11**

- How must Job prepare himself for God's response? What does God demand from Job? (v3)
- What do we learn about God from His questions?
- What are the answers to each of these questions?
- How do we see God's protection built in to His creation? (v8-11)
- What do God's questions teach us about Job (and ourselves)?
- How do you think Job would be feeling after God's words to him?

God has only just begun His response. Over the next chapters, God continues to respond in a similar vein.

### **Apply**

- How do God's questions 're-set' our thinking about ourselves, this world and our experiences?
- How will remembering who God is help us when we go through suffering?
- Reflect on God's questions to Job and spend some time in repentance before our almighty God

## **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

Job has been asking 'why?'. God began his response to Job yesterday.

- Did God's response to Job yesterday surprise you?
- What answer does God not give?

### **Read Job 38:12-30**

- What aspects of creation does God refer to?
- Which aspect/question most blows your mind as you think about it?
- What does God seem to be teaching Job in v17?
- How does God's use of sarcasm hammer home His bigger point? (v21)
- What do the details of God's questions and descriptions remind us?

### **Apply**

- How do God's questions affect your thinking about this world?
- How do God's questions affect your thinking about Him?
- How do God's questions affect your thinking about suffering?
- What comfort should God's words bring us as we live in a fallen world full of evil and suffering?
- Spend some time praying through the challenges and comforts of God's direct words to Job, and us



## **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

The LORD has answered Job's questions by pointing him to aspects of His creation as a reminder that He alone has power and wisdom. But God has more, to hammer home the extent of His greatness...

### **Read Job 38:31-41**

- What aspects of God's creation does He point Job to now?
- What language does God use to describe His power over these things? How do the lightning bolts, for example (v35), demonstrate God's authority and Job's lack of it?
- How does God highlight His control over every detail of creation? (vv37-41)

God is interacting with him in a way that He doesn't do with the rest of His creation. Man is the pinnacle of God's creation. He has created us for relationship with Himself. The fact that God responds to Job at all shows us the unique place that humans have in creation.

### **Apply**

- Why do you think God asks Job so many questions in response to Job's own questions?
- What point do God's questions make about His authority over all creation? Over evil?
- Why is this important for Job and us to know, especially in times of suffering?

## **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

God has reminded Job, and us, of His sovereign power and authority over everything. There is no aspect of space where God is not in control. Now He zooms in on wild animals to continue His powerful point.

### **Read Job 39:1-30 (skim if you need – He’s making one point)**

- Which animals does God draw Job’s attention to? What do they all have in common?
- Why therefore are they a good illustration to Job of God’s power and control?
- What aspects of their lives does God draw attention to?
- What do the details of these verses teach us about the level of God’s interest, care, knowledge and power over His creation?
- How do you think Job would be feeling after he’s heard these things?

### **Apply**

- How do you feel as you’re reminded of God’s awesome and extensive knowledge and control over His creation?
- Will these reminders affect the attitude you have towards God – especially during suffering?
- If you’re not suffering at the moment, what truths do you need to keep in your ‘spiritual armoury’?

## **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

The LORD has responded to Job's questions and demands. Although He hasn't finished yet, the LORD allows Job to answer briefly in the light of what he has heard so far. But first, one more thing from the LORD...

### **Read Job 40:1-2**

- How does God describe Job/his attitude?
- How do you think Job would be feeling at this moment?

### **Read Job 40:3-5**

- What effect has God's words had on Job?
- Do you think that is all that Job should have said in response to the LORD?

Although God hasn't directly answered Job's 'why' question, Job is silenced, and doesn't demand any further explanation than the answer, 'I am God and you are not'!

### **Apply**

- How will you respond to God's words in chapters 38-40?
- What aspect of His character/nature have you been most reminded of/convicted by?

## Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

So far Job has recognised his own unworthiness and is silenced, but these lessons on their own aren't enough. Again the LORD calls Job to brace himself and answer.

### Read Job 40:6-14

- What does the LORD challenge in Job?
- What does God challenge Job to do? (vv9-14)
- What has Job not realised in his accusation of God?

God responds to Job by offering the role of Judge to *him*! Job hasn't understood that the way for rescue (v14) is through the destruction of evil. God now uses 2 pictures of His control over evil to hammer the point home. We'll look at the first one now.

### Read Job 40:15-24

- What do we learn about this 'superbeast'?
- Who alone can control it? (v19)

Given the context, it is likely that the Behemoth is a pictorial representation of evil and death.

- What point therefore is God making? (v19, v24)

If Job can't 'tame' Behemoth then he can't deal with evil and death. The good news is that God can.

### Apply

- In what way does God's power over evil and death give us confidence, facing our own sin and death?

## **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

God has addressed Job by showing him His power over evil and death. The LORD uses one more picture to show that He also has power over Satan himself. This is what Job (and we) need to know if we are to have hope in the face of suffering and death.

### **Read Job 41:1-34 (skim if you need)**

- What impression are we given of Leviathan?
- How would it feel to come face to face with it?
- What surprising questions does God ask Job in v10-11?
- What does God remind Job/us in v11b?

Leviathan is probably a picture of Satan himself. The Bible refers to Leviathan elsewhere (Isaiah 27:1, Psalm 104:25-26, Revelation 12:9). God reminds Job that He alone is God and that all things are under His control including evil, death and Satan. As readers, we have known this from chapters 1 and 2, when God restrained Satan's work. Death and Satan are too strong for Job and for us, but wonderfully God has fully and finally dealt with both – once and for ever.

### **Apply**

#### **Read Colossians 2:13-15**

- How has God ultimately defeated Satan?
- What does that mean for those of us who are trusting in Jesus' death at the cross?

## **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

The LORD has humbled Job, reminding him of His sovereign control – even over death and Satan! God answered Job's questions of 'why' by teaching him more of His character and His power over all evil.

- How do you think Job would be feeling now?
- Has your attitude towards suffering changed as you have studied the book of Job? If so, how?

### **Read Job 42:1-6**

- What does Job acknowledge about the Lord?
- How does Job respond to God's accusation of him?
- How has Job's understanding of God changed? (v5)
- What is Job's response to this new understanding (v6)? What is (and isn't) he repenting of?

### **Apply**

- What did Job know? What didn't Job know even at the end?
- What does Job teach us about what we need to remember when we go through suffering?
- What attitudes might we need to repent of?

### **Read James 5:10-11**

- What do we learn about the LORD through the life and experience of Job?

## Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Job has recognised more of the LORD's character and deeds and has repented of his previous lack of understanding. As we near the end of this book, we finally get God's assessment of Job's three friends.

### Read Job 42:7-9

- What does God have to say to Eliphaz (as the representative of the three friends)?
- How does God describe Job and his words?
- Have you felt a tension between Job's expression at times and God's verdict here in v7? How?
- What role does God give to Job on behalf of his friends?
- On what basis does God forgive Job's friends and not punish them?

We see a great reversal here! Job's friends repeatedly accused Job of ongoing sin. Now Job is the one who intercedes because of *their* sin. Job is vindicated. He is shown to be blameless before God and is an example of one who persevered in the face of suffering.

### Apply

- How does Job's example help us endure suffering?
- In what ways does Job foreshadow Jesus?
- How will that affect your thinking today?

## Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March

We have followed Job from the heights of blessing to the depths of despair, to a deep humbling before the holy God. Now we will see a snapshot of *our* future.

### Read Job 42:10-16

- How is Job's situation reversed?
- What does the Lord restore to Job? To what extent? (v12a)
- *When* does this blessing come to Job?

The New Testament tells us that there is also huge and extravagant inheritance and blessing waiting for everyone who trusts in Jesus.

- How might keeping this in view help you to persevere through suffering?

### Read James 5:10-11

- How does James describe those who persevere? (v11a)

James reminds us that the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

- What do you need to repent of in the light of this book?
- What do you need to actively remember/hold on to?
- What has Job taught you about having all your 'why?' questions answered?