

- 1 Be concise.** Please share your thoughts and answers, but be considerate so that others will have time to share their answers also. Be charitable and kind. Be willing to share with the group, but do not try to dominate the conversation. Use the time after the class to find help with any personal issues or problems you may be confronting in your life.

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”

(James 1:19–20)

- 2 Be thoughtful with your answer.** Consider your words. Do not simply regurgitate what you have always heard. We have the tendency to speak in “Christianese” — words that only people who grew up on the pews would understand. Think about how your words will be heard by others. Will they understand what you are saying? Is what you are about to say going to be useful for the building up of the faith of others? Or will your words be confusing, cause hurt, or worse, damage someone’s faith? Speak without harshness or anger, but with kindness and humility.

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

(Ephesians 4:29)

- 3 Rely on the scriptures for truth.** It is easy to rely upon conventional, worldly wisdom as truth. Bible study is about seeking God’s answers for our lives, not dispensing the advice of the world. We must consider that our natural answers may be the wrong answers if they are not founded on God’s word.

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

(1 Corinthians 1:25)

This is a booklet to aid you in your personal study of this book. Read through the text first, discovering God's precious truths for yourself. Write down the main point of each section of text in the space provided. Use the margins on each side of the text and the backside of the page to make notations of the truths you discover and passages you do not understand. When you believe you have seen all there is in text, read and answer the questions in the booklet pertaining to that section of text. The questions are not an exhaustive list of things to look for in the text. The questions are to help you consider the points that the author was trying to convey to his audience. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

The book of Job is in the wisdom literature section of the scriptures (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs). Most of the book is written in Hebrew poetry. You will notice that the first two chapters are written in prose. But beginning in chapter 3 you will see that the text in your scriptures is written differently to indicate poetry. The poetry section continues from chapter 3 until 42:6. The prose writing returns from 42:7 to the end of the book. This knowledge should inform our study that we are reading poetry like reading the Psalms rather than narrative like 1 Chronicles. After giving the setting in the first two chapters, poetry is used by God to teach the readers about the character of God.

Is Job historical or is this just a spiritual story? There is a lot of debate over the answer to this question. Take some time to consider the following texts to weigh the evidence.

Evidence for a poetic, spiritual story:

1. How many animals did Job have (1:3)? Are these exact numbers?
2. How many children did Job have (1:2)? How many sons? How many daughters? Are these numbers significant in Hebrew symbolism?
3. Do you think when Job and his friends spoke to each other that they spoke to each other in three cycles, using beautiful Hebrew poetry in each accusation and defense?
4. Notice the resolution to the book (42:12-13). What happens to Job?

Evidence for Job as a historical person and historical event:

5. Read James 5:11. What does this indicate?

6. Read Ezekiel 14:14,20. What does this indicate?

7. Read Jeremiah 25:20 and Lamentations 4:21. Was Uz an actual place?

8. Is there a way to reconcile Job as an actual person who lived in Uz and suffered greatly with the poetry that is used that seems to indicate this is just a story? Explain.

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

1. Who are the main characters in this book?

2. Who are the supporting characters in this book, only appearing in the first two chapters?

3. By noting the main characters, what is this book mainly about?

THE DISCUSSION CYCLES

1. What is Job's primary argument in his speeches?

2. What is the three friends' primary argument in their speeches?

3. What is Elihu's primary argument in his speech?

4. What is God's primary argument in his speech?

5. Read Job 42:7-9. What does God say about Job? What does God say about the three friends? What does God say about Elihu? How should these things affect how we read this book?

OUTLINING JOB:

_____ (Job 1-2)

_____ (Job 3)

_____ (Job 4-14)

_____ (Job 15-21)

_____ (Job 22-28)

_____ (Job 29-31)

_____ (Job 32-37)

_____ (Job 38-41)

_____ (Job 42)

Consider: Many people think they know the book because they have studied chapters 1, 2, and 42. Is this a fair way to treat God's word? Should we think that the middle of this book is not relevant to God's message?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What do we learn about Job as a man in the first five verses? What does God want you to know?

- 2 When Job suffers in this book, is he suffering because he sinned?

- 3 Write down the names of other people in the scriptures who were righteous but suffered.

- 4 Read John 9:1-3. What did the disciples think must have been the reason why this man was born blind? What answer does Jesus give?

- 5 Read Luke 13:1-5. What did people seem to think why certain Galileans were killed and why a tower in Siloam fell on those 18, according to this text? What answer does Jesus give?

- 6 Is the cause of suffering always sin? Can we look at our circumstances and determine with certainty that we have sinned? Do people suffer because of their righteousness? Explain.

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this section of Job change your relationship with God? What did you learn about God? What do you learn about suffering? What will you do differently in your life?

- 7 Who are the “sons of God?” Consider Psalm 82 and 1 Kings 22:19-23 in your answer.
- 8 In the book of Job, the definite article “the” is always in front of the term “Satan.” The Satan is not a name, but a description. What does this word “Satan” mean?
- 9 Look at 1 Peter 5:8 and Revelation 12:10. What does the Satan do? Is his description accurate?
- 10 What is Satan’s accusation (1:9-11)? According to Satan, why does Job serve God?
- 11 Explain how this accusation is ultimately an accusation against God.
- 12 Describe the loss Job experiences. Read Deuteronomy 28:31-35. What does Job’s suffering look like in the eyes of those who read this book?
- 13 What was Job’s response to his loss (1:20-22)?

TRANSFORMATION:

Do we serve God for nothing (no physical blessing or benefit) or do we serve only for the physical good God does in our lives? How can you know?

How does Job’s answer change our way of thinking about how to handle suffering and loss?

What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is different in God's words to the Satan in 2:1-3 from 1:6-8?

- 2 Who takes responsibility for what happened to Job? Read also Job 42:11. Who took responsibility for what happened to Job in 42:11?

- 3 While an answer to suffering is not given at this point in the book, will it do to absolve God of responsibility for Job's suffering by saying that Satan did it? Explain.

- 4 Did Satan cause Job's suffering (2:7)? Did God cause Job's suffering (2:3; 42:11)? Did God allow Job to suffer? (Again, the book of Job is not two chapters long. The answers are not found here. Instead, the problem is asserted here and the rest of the book will provide answers.)

- 5 What accusation does Satan make this time (2:4-5)? How is this also an accusation against God?

- 6 What response does Job's wife give (2:9)? Think about what she is saying in regards to the accusation of Satan? Has she turned against Job? What is she telling Job exactly?

- 7 Has Job's wife suffered through what Job has experienced? What does this teach us about suffering and how the world operates?

- 8 What was Job's response (2:10)? How does Job's answer change our way of thinking about how to handle suffering and loss?

- 9 Why do the friends of Job come to see him (2:11-13)?

- 10 What do they notice about Job when they see him?

TRANSFORMATION:

Is suffering part of the Christian life?

How does this chapter change your relationship with God? What did you learn about God? What do you learn about suffering? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 In the first 10 verses Job curses the day of his birth. Is his cursing an anger-laced tirade, as we often use the word?

What does it mean when God cursed something?

Look at the context of what Job says in these 10 verses. What is Job declaring when he curses the day of his birth?

- 2 Looking at verses 11-19, what does Job think is the only way to find rest and peace? Is this a common way of thinking today? Have you felt this way also?
- 3 Consider that Job does not bewail his lost finances, lost children, or lost health. Read Job 29:1-6. What does Job think has happened to him because he has lost all these things?

If one believes that good things happen to the righteous and bad things happen to the wicked, is Job's assessment logical?

4 Write down the five “why” questions Job asks in verses 11-26. What is Job expressing through these “why” questions? Is he looking for answers to these questions or something else?

5 Read verses 20-26. What is Job feeling? Have you felt this way through trials?

TRANSFORMATION:

Can a Christian feel despair and still have faith in God? Consider the following passage to help answer the question: 1 Kings 19:1-5; Numbers 11:10-15; 2 Corinthians 1:8

Is it acceptable to feel pain, sadness, loss, and despair yet still be a Christian?

How does this chapter change your relationship with God? What did you learn about God? What do you learn about suffering? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

Eliphaz' First Speech (4:1-5:27)

- 1 How does Eliphaz begin his speech (4:1-6)? What should Job consider?

- 2 What teaching point does Eliphaz make (4:7-11)? Is this true or not? Explain your answer.

- 3 What does Eliphaz say he received (4:12-21)? What was the message given to him to give to Job?

- 4 What kind of person does Eliphaz describe in 5:1-7? What point is Eliphaz making to Job?

- 5 Explain Job 5:6-7. What is Eliphaz's point?

- 6 What does Eliphaz say Job should do (5:8-16)? Based on verses 12-14 what kind of appeal should Job be making?

- 7 Where is Job 5:13 quoted in the New Testament? What does this mean in its NT context?

- 8 Consider that Eliphaz is taking a truth about God and misusing it against Job. How is Eliphaz misusing truth against Job? How do we make the same mistake? How can we avoid making this mistake?
- 9 What is the point Eliphaz makes in 5:17-27? If Job repents, what will happen? Is Eliphaz correct?
- 10 Proverbs 3:11-12 and Hebrews 12:5-6 state similar principles that Eliphaz makes in 5:17. But how is Eliphaz misapplying this truth to Job? What do we learn from this?

Job's Response (6:1-7:21)

- 11 What does Job say first in his response (6:1-13)? What does Job desire?
- 12 What does Job say about his friends (6:14-30)? Have they been helpful? What does Job desire?
- 13 Describe Job's lament (7:1-6). What is Job enduring?
- 14 Explain Job's complaint to God (7:7-21). Write down all that Job says God is doing to him.
- 15 Job 7:17 sounds similar to Psalm 8:4. What point was the psalmist making about God in Psalm 8? What point is Job making in Job 7:16-21?

TRANSFORMATION:

How do these chapters change your relationship with God? What did you learn about God? What do you learn about suffering? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

Bildad's Speech (8:1-22)

- 1 What does Bildad say about Job (8:1-2)?

- 2 What is Bildad's point in verses 3-7? What is Bildad saying about Job's children? What is Bildad saying Job should do and what will be the result?

- 3 What is Bildad saying to Job in verses 8-10? What does he expect Job to do?

- 4 What is Bildad's message in verses 11-19? What happens to humans who do not depend on God?

- 5 What does Bildad declare in verses 20-22? Does Bildad think Job is blameless?

TRANSFORMATION:

Does God operate on the basis of karma? Will good deeds and good intentions lead to future happiness and bad deeds and bad intentions bring future suffering? (Job 8:6-7) Will your future be better because you did good today? Explain.

Why do we gravitate to this kind of thinking about God and suffering? Does 1 Peter 4:19 show us if good things happen to good people and bad things happen to bad people?

Job's Response (9:1-10:22)

- 6 What is the appeal that Job wants to make to God (9:1-15)? But does Job think he can make an appeal to God?

- 7 Why can't Job make an appeal before God (9:16-20)?

- 8 Compare Job's words in 9:21-24 with Ecclesiastes 8:14-15. What are these two saying about God and how he runs the world?

- 9 What does Job say about his own life in 9:25-29?

- 10 Why will it not matter if Job were to cleanse himself with lye (9:30-31)?

- 11 What does Job recognize that he needs (9:32-35)? Why is this an important concept to understand (cf. Isaiah 6:5; Ezekiel 1:28; Revelation 1:17)?

- 12 What are some important points that Job makes during his lament in chapter 10? What are some of the feelings he expresses?

TRANSFORMATION:

Read Hebrews 9:13-15 and Hebrews 9:24-28. What has God done to solve our problem?

How does this change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

Zophar's Speech (11:1-20)

- 1 How does Zophar begin his speech (11:1-6)? Why does Zophar think Job is full of sins and God "exact of you less than your guilt deserves?"
- 2 What is Zophar's point in 11:7-12? Do people use the same argument today that it just is not possible to know God? How do we reconcile scriptures like Romans 11:33-34 and Isaiah 55:6-9 with scriptures that repeatedly command the world to know the Lord?
- 3 What is Zophar's solution to Job's suffering (11:13-20)? Does God ever make this promise that Zophar is proposing? Explain.

Job's Response (12:1-14:22)

- 4 Explain Job's initial response to Zophar (12:1-6).
- 5 What is Job trying to show these three friends by describing the works of God on the earth in nature (12:7-15), in the leaders of the earth (12:16-21), and in the nations of the earth (12:22-25)?
- 6 How is Job's point different than Zophar's point where he said that God cannot be known?

- 7 How does Job show that his friends' explanations for suffering are deceitful and false (13:1-12)?
- 8 Why does Job want to make his case to God (13:13-28)? Is Job fearful in desiring to do this? What does he think will happen to him if he were to present his case to God?
- 9 How does he think God looks at him (13:23-27)?
- 10 What hope do trees and plants have when they are cut down (14:1-12)? Do humans have this hope according to the text?
- 11 What does Job wish would happen (14:13-17)? But what is Job's reality (14:18-22)?

TRANSFORMATION:

Job wishes that there was a way to come back to life after being cut down. But this is a hope that is declared in the New Testament (1 Corinthians 15:19; 1 Peter 1:3-9; Romans 6:4-5). How does the hope of resurrection help us through suffering in this life?

How does this change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

Eliphaz's Speech (15:1-35)

- 1 What does Eliphaz say Job is doing by speaking the way he does (15:4)? According to Eliphaz, why does Job speak in this way (15:5-6)?

- 2 What is Eliphaz's point about wisdom, particularly what the friends are expressing to Job (15:7-11)?

- 3 What does Eliphaz try to convince Job of (15:12-16)?

- 4 What is Eliphaz's message in 15:17-35?

Job's Response (16:1-17:16)

- 5 What is Job's response to Eliphaz's speech (16:1-5)?

- 6 What Job's feelings about what God is doing to him and his relationship with God (16:6-14)? Is Job right? Explain.

- 7 In spite of how Job feels, what is Job doing (16:15-18)?

- 8 What does Job recognize that he needs before God (16:19-22)?

- 9 Even though he is suffering, what expectation does Job have (17:1-5)?

- 10 Why are the upright, innocent, and righteous appalled at Job's condition (17:6-10)? Why is Job's situation so troubling to them?

- 11 What useless maxim do people say to Job (17:12)? What lessons do we learn from this?

- 12 What hope does Job have (17:11, 13-16)?

TRANSFORMATION:

What are ways that we can avoid being miserable comforters?

How does this change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

Bildad's Speech (18:1-21)

1 What is Bildad's criticism of Job in 18:1-4?

2 What is Bildad teaching in verses 5-21? What does this have to do with Job? What is Bildad's point to Job?

3 Read Ecclesiastes 8:10-11. Does the writer of Ecclesiastes agree with Bildad? Explain.

Job's Response (19:1-29)

4 What is Job's response to Bildad's speech (19:1-6)?

5 What does Job say God has done to him (19:7-12)?

6 What has happened to Job because of his trial (19:13-20)?

7 What is Job begging for from God (19:21-29)?

- 8 What is a redeemer? Consider Boaz in the book of Ruth and what it meant for him to be a redeemer. What does a redeemer do?
- 9 Who does Job say will be his redeemer? How would this happen and why is it important to Job?

Zophar's Speech (20:1-29)

- 10 What is Zophar's message to Job? Does Zophar offer any counsel different from Bildad?

Job's Response (21:1-34)

- 11 What is Job's answer to Zophar's speech in chapter 21? Is Zophar right or Job right? Explain.

- 12 Read Ecclesiastes 9:1-3. Does the writer of Ecclesiastes agree with Job or Zophar?

- 13 Look at your life and look around at the world. Do you agree with Job or with Zophar? Explain.

TRANSFORMATION:

Does God bring justice immediately in this world? How does your answer help you with suffering and injustice (cf. 1 Peter 2:19-23; Romans 12:19)?

When does God say he will bring justice and vindication (cf. Revelation 20:11-15)?

How does this change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

Eliphaz's Speech (22:1-30)

1 What is Eliphaz's assertion in 22:1-5?

2 Is Eliphaz correct? Consider what God said about Job in the first two chapters. Also consider 1 Peter 5:7; Psalm 35:27; Psalm 18:19.

3 What does Eliphaz accuse Job of (22:6-11)? Is Eliphaz correct? What is Eliphaz doing? What lessons do we learn?

4 What does Eliphaz teach in 22:12-20? What is Eliphaz's point to Job?

5 What is Eliphaz's advice (22:21-30)?

Job's Response (23:1-24:25)

6 What is Job's cry (23:1-9)?

7 What is Job's confidence (23:10-12)?

- 8 Why is Job terrified of God (23:13-17)? Should God's sovereignty causes us to be terrified or have comfort as Christians? Explain your answer.
- 9 What is Job's cry in 24:1-17? For help, look at verse 12. Have you felt this way in your times of suffering?
- 10 What is Job saying in 24:18-25? Interpreters really struggle with this paragraph. Is Job merely quoting the concepts of the friends or is Job expressing future faith? Explain your answer.

TRANSFORMATION:

According to 2 Peter 3:9-10, why is God's justice delayed? Are you glad that God's justice is delayed? Explain.

Look at Matthew 13:24-30. Why was God's justice and wrath delayed?

How does this change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

Bildad's Speech (25:1-6)

- 1 Why do you think Bildad's speech is so short this time? Consider that Zophar does not even have another speech in your answer.
- 2 What is Bildad's argument in this last speech?
- 3 Does God consider humans as maggots and worms (25:6)? Explain your answer.

Job's Response (26:1-31:40)

- 4 What is Job's response to Bildad (26:1-4)?
- 5 What is Job's point in 26:5-14? Can anyone escape God?
- 6 Can God be explained by the simple theology and platitudes that these friends have declared (26:9-14)?
- 7 How would you summarize Job's speech in chapter 27?
- 8 God condemns Job for his words in 27:2 (cf. Job 40:8). What is Job saying that is wrong? Explain.

- 9 What does Job want God to do to his enemies (27:7-12)?
- 10 What does Job say will happen to the wicked (27:13-23)? Does this contradict what Job said earlier? Explain what Job is saying.
- 11 What does Job say about wisdom in chapter 28?
- 12 Where does wisdom come from (28:28)? What is wisdom? Where else do the scriptures teach the same point?
- 13 What does Job describe about himself in chapter 29? What is he remembering? Describe what life was like for Job before this trial began.
- 14 What does Job describe about himself in chapter 30? What is Job's current situation? What does life look like for Job now?
- 15 What does Job appeal to as he ends his speeches to his friends and to God in chapter 31?

TRANSFORMATION:

What life lessons do we learn from Job 27 for when we experiencing suffering and trials?

What do we need to handle trials (Job 28)? According to Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, how is this obtained? How does James 1:2-5 tell us to get it?

How do these chapters change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Who has been listening to these speeches the whole time?
- 2 Why is Elihu angry with Job (32:1-5)?
- 3 Why is Elihu angry with the three friends of Job (32:1-5)?
- 4 One challenge readers face is determining if Elihu's speech should be considered as godly, good counsel or as false counsel like the three friends offered. Some read Elihu's words and think he is saying the same thing that the three friends said. However, there are many things Elihu says that God also says in his speech (40:8). There are many reasons for accepting Elihu's words as godly counsel.

Read Job 42:7. If Elihu gave false speeches, what would we expect God to do in Job 42:7?

If Elihu gave false speeches, what would we expect Job to do at the end of each speech as he did at the end of each speech of the three friends?

Notice also the literary form of the book of Job. Who speaks immediately after Elihu? Who is addressed as in the wrong: Job or Elihu?

- 5 Why have we not heard from Elihu until now (32:6-7)?
- 6 What is Elihu's opinion of the three friends' wisdom (32:8-10)?
- 7 What had the three friends said and why were they no longer addressing Job (32:11-16)?

- 8 How does Elihu say he will speak to Job (32:19-33:7)? Why would these things be comforting to Job?
- 9 Carefully read 33:8-11. Does Elihu say that Job is condemned because he sinned in his life in the past, like the friends have said? What is the basis that Elihu challenges Job?
- 10 Based on your answer above, how will Elihu's confrontation be different than how the three friends confronted Job?
- 11 What else had Job said about God (33:13)?
- 12 Job's friends said that Job suffered because he was being punished for his sins. What does Elihu say is one of God's purposes for allowing suffering (33:15-18; 28-30)?
- 13 Consider the following New Testament passages. What does God say he uses trials and suffering for?
- Romans 5:3-5
- James 1:2-4
- 1 Peter 1:6-9
- 14 Based on Elihu's words and the New Testament passages above, how is suffering used by God for our good?

TRANSFORMATION:

What life lessons do we learn for when we experiencing suffering and trials?

How does this change your view of suffering? How do these chapters change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What has Job said that Elihu now challenges him for saying (34:1-6)?

- 2 What else has Job said that Elihu challenges Job for saying (34:9)?

- 3 It is important to read verses 7-9 carefully. Why does Elihu say that Job “drinks up scoffing like water, travels in the company of the wicked and walks with wicked men?” How is this different than how the three friends charged Job with sin?

- 4 Look at 34:36 to confirm the above conclusions. “Would that Job were tried to the end, because he answers like wicked men.” According to Elihu, what is Job’s sin?

- 5 What defense does Elihu make of God (34:10-12)?

- 6 Does God have to answer the questions of humans (34:13-20)?

- 7 Does God know what is happening in our lives (34:21-25)? Is God unaware of suffering and injustice that we may experience?

- 8 Will God bring justice and judgment on the wicked (34:26-30)?
- 9 Does God have to act on our terms, judge on our time frame, reward when we desire, or do anything that we think he should do (34:33)? What important lessons do we learn from this?
- 10 What words of Job is Elihu challenging in 35:1-3? What has Job said wrong?
- 11 Does God owe us anything because we have been righteous (35:4-8)? Are we supposed to only serve God for what advantage it gives to us?
- 12 Why do most people cry out to God (35:9)? What should we cry out to God (35:10-11)? What is the difference and why does God answer one but not the other (35:12-16)?
- 13 Elihu presents two options for how to respond to suffering in 36:1-12. What is to be our response to God when suffering (36:11-12)? What is the common response to suffering (36:13-21; verse 21 especially)?
- 14 What is God doing through suffering (36:22-23)? Are we to teach God? Are we to tell God when we have learned enough from our trials or when our trials should stop?
- 15 How does considering the majesty of God in creation help us through our suffering and trials (36:24-37:24)?

TRANSFORMATION:

What life lessons do we learn for when we experiencing suffering and trials?

How does this change your view of suffering? How do these chapters change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Explain 38:1-3. What does God say Job has done? What does God say he is going to do to Job?

- 2 What is God's challenge to Job in 38:4-15? What is Job to answer God by looking at these aspects of the creation?

- 3 It is important to notice that God is not only describing creation but a very important concern of Job's and humanity. God says that he commands the light to shake out the wicked (38:12-13) and uses the light to break the uplifted arm of the wicked (38:14-15). Darkness, the sea, and the night are common images for the wicked in the scriptures (cf. John 1:5; Revelation 12:17-13:1). With this understanding and context, reread 38:8-11. What is God saying about evil and his purposes for it? How did we see this in Job 1-2 in God's dealings with Satan?

- 4 Based on what God has said so far, why does evil exist? Why hasn't God judged Satan and ended evil yet? Why does wickedness continue?

- 5 What is God teaching about himself in 38:16-38?

- 6 How can God use the creation (38:22-24)? Write down examples in the scriptures where we see God use "forces of nature" for the time of trouble?

- 7 Based on God describing his power over the creation and using his creation for his purposes, should we question the purposes and designs of God? What has been Job's error?

- 8 What is God asking Job to consider by bringing up the various animals of the creation (38:39-39:30)? Notice how many times in this section God says, "Can you...?" or "Do you...?"

- 9 God concludes his speech in 40:1-2. What is God's answer to Job? Explain.

- 10 Are we in a position to question God about things that God has shown we know absolutely nothing about?

- 11 Has God failed in his obligations toward Job? Has God failed in his obligations toward us? Has God failed in his obligations toward the world?

- 12 Who are we to question the creation order when it is God who made the creation order the way that it is and declared it to be good and the spiritual beings rejoiced (38:7)?

TRANSFORMATION:

What life lessons do we learn for when we experiencing suffering and trials?

How does this change your view of suffering? How do these chapters change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is Job's response to God's first speech (40:3-5)?

- 2 Why does God give another speech? What is Job lacking in his first response that causes God to continue with a second speech (cf. 42:1-6)?

- 3 What has Job said that God now challenges Job (40:8)? The NIV reads: Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself? (Job 40:8 NIV)

- 4 What does God ask Job if he can do (40:10-14)? What is God showing Job?

- 5 What is God's point to Job by having Job consider the Behemoth (40:15-24)?

- 6 Look at 40:15. "Behold, Behemoth, which I made as I made you." If God made an animal that no human can approach, then what does this say about the power and strength of God?

- 7 Consider the descriptions of Leviathan in 41:1-10. Then carefully read 41:11. What is God's point for having Job consider Leviathan?

- 8 What does God want people to see about his character when they look at the creation? Consider the apostle Paul makes a similar point in Romans 1:20.

- 9 What has Job learned (42:2)? What does this mean for our lives, especially as we go through trials and suffering?

- 10 What does Job mean in 42:5? How has Job seen the Lord after hearing this speech?

- 11 What is Job's response (42:6)?

- 12 What has been God's answer to Job about suffering? What is supposed to be our response toward God when suffering and in trials?

TRANSFORMATION:

What life lessons do we learn for when we experiencing suffering and trials?

How does this change your view of suffering? How do these chapters change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Why are the three friends condemned by God (42:7)? What have the friends said that was not right about God?

- 2 What must the friends do to receive forgiveness? How is this ironic and a vindication of Job in light of what the friends have said about Job?

- 3 How does God comfort Job (42:10-17)?

- 4 In light of the full study of this book, why can't the message of the book of Job be that God will give you physical blessings for your righteousness?

- 5 The book has made the point that our righteousness does not obligate God to bless us. So how should we understand God blessing Job after the trial? What are we supposed to learn?

- 6 Look at 42:11. Who was responsible for all the trouble that came upon Job? Why is it important that we understand this truth?

- 7** How does your answer in question 6 make 1 Corinthians 10:13 a message of hope and encouragement in trials and temptations?

No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13 NRSV)

- 8** Read James 5:7-11. What are we supposed to learn from the life of Job about God?

7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. 10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. (James 5:7–11 ESV)

TRANSFORMATION:

What life lessons do we learn for when we experiencing suffering and trials?

How does this change your view of suffering? How do these chapters change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

JOB



SEEING GOD IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING

SELF-STUDY WORKBOOK

by: Brent Kercheville