

“BRACE YOURSELF LIKE A MAN...”

JOB SEVERELY TESTED

Job 1:1 NLT *There once was a man named Job who lived in the land of Uz. He was blameless—a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil.*

Job 1:12 NLT *“All right, you may test him,” the LORD said to Satan. “Do whatever you want with everything he possesses, but don’t harm him physically.” So Satan left the LORD’s presence.*

Job 2:7-10 NLT *So Satan left the LORD’s presence, and he struck Job with terrible boils from head to foot. ⁽⁸⁾Job scraped his skin with a piece of broken pottery as he sat among the ashes. ⁽⁹⁾His wife said to him, “Are you still trying to maintain your integrity? Curse God and die.” ⁽¹⁰⁾But Job replied, “You talk like a foolish woman. Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?” So in all this, Job said nothing wrong.*

JOB JUSTIFYING HIMSELF

Job 6:4-5 NLT *For the Almighty has struck me down with his arrows. Their poison infects my spirit. God’s terrors are lined up against me. ⁽⁵⁾Don’t I have a right to complain? Don’t wild donkeys bray when they find no grass, and oxen bellow when they have no food?*

Job 13:3 NLT *As for me, I would speak directly to the Almighty. I want to argue my case with God himself.*

Job 31:35 NLT *If only someone would listen to me! Look, I will sign my name to my defense. Let the Almighty answer me. Let my accuser write out the charges against me.*

JOB REALIZES THE TRUTH

Job 42:2-6 NLT *I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you. ⁽³⁾You asked, “Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?” It is I—and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me. ⁽⁴⁾You said, “Listen and I will speak! I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.” ⁽⁵⁾I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. ⁽⁶⁾I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance.*

Job 19:25-27 NLT *But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and he will stand upon the earth at last. ⁽²⁶⁾And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God! ⁽²⁷⁾I will see him for myself. Yes, I will see him with my own eyes. I am overwhelmed at the thought!*

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. How do you react when you’re in a trial?
2. What are the ways you try to justify yourself?
3. How solid is your understanding of God’s sovereignty?

THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE:

1. Commit to read Job 31 this week.
2. Take a critical look at how you react to difficulty.
3. Pray for God to reveal Himself to you in a new way this week.

