

# SERMON & SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION GUIDE



Week 1: September 21, 2025 (Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

**Text:** Job 1:1, 2:1-10

**Topics:** Righteousness, Faith, Belief, Sovereignty of God

**Core Values:** The value of moral integrity and living a righteous life, the importance of unwavering faith and loyalty in the face of adversity. God's authority to permit testing and suffering for the sake of ultimately refining faith.

**Main Idea:** These passages highlight the testing of Job's faith through loss, pain, and personal calamity, emphasizing themes of divine sovereignty, faithfulness, and endurance in the face of adversity.

**Application/Beginning thought**...Are you living in a way that reflects reverence for God and integrity, even when no one is watching? Do you trust that God is good even through suffering?

# **Bible Study Questions:**

- 1. What qualities are attributed to Job in Job 1:1, and how do these qualities challenge or inspire your own walk with God?
- 2. In Job 2:3, God says Job "still maintains his integrity" despite suffering. What does "integrity" look like in times of hardship?
- 3. Why do you think God allowed Satan to test Job a second time? What does this suggest about God's trust in Job—or in us?
- 4. How do you interpret Job's response to his wife in Job 2:10: "Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"
- 5. What lessons can we learn from Job's wife's response to suffering, and how can we guard against similar reactions in our own lives?

Follow-up: How can we support each other in our faith during times of loss, pain, or discouragement?

#### **Group Discussion Questions:**

- 1. How can we pursue a blameless and upright life without falling into pride or legalism?
- 2. Have you ever considered that your faith might be on 'display' in some unseen way?
- 3. Why is it often harder to maintain faith when we experience pain or loss?
- 4. How can we help one another stay faithful during hardship rather than pulling each other down?
- 5. Follow-up: What practical steps can we take to build a resilient, enduring faith?
- 6. How can we pray for you?

**Prayer:** Lord, help us to be like Job—people who live upright and blameless lives, not to earn Your favor, but because we love and honor You. When we face trials, remind us that our faith is precious to You, and sometimes it is refined through suffering. God, we confess that it's easy to worship You when life is good—but when we suffer, doubt and discouragement can creep in. Strengthen our hearts to remain faithful even when we don't understand what You're doing. Amen.



Week 2: September 28, 2025 (Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

**Text:** Job 23:1-9,16-17

**Topics:** Desire for God, Confidence in God, Hiddenness of God, Darkness, Despair

Core values: Honesty with God, longing for Divine Justice, persistently seeking God, reverence for God's

Sovereignty

**Main Idea:** The tension between faith and silence, trust and fear, showing how deep suffering can challenge belief—but not necessarily destroy it.

**Application/Beginning thought...** can I keep trusting God even when I'm hurting or scared. I may not have answers, but I can still choose faith. I can keep praying. I can keep showing up. Like Job, I can bring my raw honesty to God, knowing He can handle it.

# **Bible Study Questions:**

- 1. What does Job's longing to find God (vv. 3–4) reveal about his relationship with Him?
- 2. Job believes he would be vindicated if he could present his case before God (v. 7).
- 3. In verses 8–9, Job says he can't find God anywhere—even though he's searching. What are some reasons he might feel spiritually "lost" or unable to sense God's presence?
- 4. Verse 16 says, "God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me." What does this say about the tension between reverence and fear in his relationship with God?
- 5. Despite darkness and fear, Job says, "I am not silenced" (v. 17). What helps him keep his faith and voice alive in his times of emotional and spiritual darkness?

# **Group Discussion Questions:**

- 1. Have you ever experienced a time when God felt distant or silent? What did that feel like, and how did you respond?
- 2. What can we learn from Job's persistence in seeking God during those moments?
- 3. Why do you think Job was so confident in his integrity before God?
- 4. Do you find it easy or difficult to be honest with God about your struggles?
- 5. What does this sense of God's hiddenness teach us about real faith? How can we continue to walk in faith even when we can't "feel" God?
- 6. What role does fear or awe play in your relationship with God? How can we balance reverence for God's power with trust in His love?
- 7. What helps you continue to trust or speak to God when life feels overwhelming or dark? How can we, as a group, support one another through those seasons?
- 8. What is one takeaway from Job's experience that you want to apply to your own walk with God this week and how can we pray for you?

**Prayer:** In the darkest seasons, when fear and doubt surround us, help us to not be silenced. Give us strength to speak to You honestly and to encourage one another with hope. May we be a community that lifts each other up, offering faith and love, especially when the way is hard. Lord, we choose to keep trusting You—to keep seeking You—to keep holding on to You—even when we cannot see You clearly. Amen.



Week 3: October 5, 2025 (Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost)

**Text:** Job 38:1-7, 34-41

Topics: God's Sovereignty, Wisdom and Power, Humanness, Provision and Care

**Core Values:** Humility and Trust in God's Sovereignty, Reverence for God's Power, Recognition for God's Provision and Acceptance and Patience.

**Main Idea:** In every age, Christian communities have been surrounded by powerful and popular cultural forces; faithful living involves resisting the pressure to give in to earthly power.

**Application/Beginning thought...**the universe is vast and complex and He who created it controls it all through His divine wisdom and authority and governs the natural world in ways humans cannot fully grasp, yet still he encourages us to trust in His sovereignty and goodness.

## **Bible Study Questions:**

- 1. Why do you think God responds to Job with questions about creation instead of direct answers?
- 2. How do these questions reveal God's perspective compared to human understanding?
- 3. What do God's descriptions of controlling natural forces (morning, rain, snow, hail, thunder) tell us about His power and care?
- 4. How does this impact your view of God's involvement in the world?
- 5. How do the questions about providing for animals (lions, ravens, mountain goats, etc.) reflect God's attention to even the smallest parts of creation? What does this say about God's character and His care for us?
- 6. In what ways do these verses challenge pride or self-reliance? How can recognizing our limitations lead to greater trust in God?

# **Group Discussion Questions:**

- 1. When God asks Job about the creation of the world and controlling natural elements, what do you think He is trying to communicate about His power and wisdom? How does this change the way you see your own struggles or questions about life?
- 2. God highlights His role in laying the earth's foundations and setting boundaries for the seas. Why is it important for us to remember God as Creator and Sustainer? How might this understanding affect your trust in Him?
- 3. How can knowing that God cares for all creation comfort us personally?
- 4. How does God's challenge to Job about human limitations encourage humility in our faith?
- 5. Can you share a time when recognizing your limits helped deepen your trust in God?
- 6. Reflecting on this passage, how can we practically live out trust in God's sovereignty during difficult or confusing seasons? What habits or attitudes help you remember God's power and presence?
- 7. How can we pray for you?

**Prayer:** Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, You spoke out of the storm to remind us of Your power and wisdom. You laid the foundations of the world and command the forces of nature. You care for every creature, great and small. We stand in awe of Your greatness. Help us to trust You when life feels confusing or overwhelming. Remind us that Your wisdom is beyond our understanding. Amen.



Week 4: October 12, 2025 (Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

**Text:** Job 42:1-6,10-17

**Topics:** Humility, Repentance, Reverence, Surrender, Insight, Confession Restoration, Blessing, Reconciliation **Core Values:** Deep, relational nature of transformation from suffering to restoration through humility, trust,

forgiveness, and hope.

Main Idea: Humility, repentance, and faith in God's justice ultimately lead to restoration and blessing.

**Application/Beginning thought...** In times of suffering or confusion, we are reminded to respond with humility, recognizing that we may not fully understand God's purposes. Like Job, we can choose to trust God's wisdom even when life feels unjust or unclear. When we let go of the need to control or question everything, and instead repent of pride or bitterness, we open ourselves to growth, healing, and restoration.

## **Bible Study Questions:**

- 1. What does Job's response in verses 1–6 teach us about humility before God, and how does Job's view of God change from the beginning of the book to this point?
- 2. What does it mean when Job says, "Now my eyes have seen You" (v. 5)?
- 3. Why do you think Job repents if God says he was blameless (see Job 1:8)? What does this tell us about the nature of repentance?
- 4. Why do you think Job's restoration comes after he prays for his friends (v. 10)?
- 5. What does the doubling of Job's blessings tell us about God's character?
- 6. Does this mean God always restores materially after suffering? Why or why not?
- 7. How do Job's relationships (family and friends) change after his trials and what role might community play in healing?
- 8. What does Job's long life and the mention of his daughters' beauty and inheritance signify?

## **Group Discussion Questions:**

- 1. How do you respond to God during seasons of suffering or unanswered questions?
- 2. What might you learn from Job's example?
- 3. Is there an area in your life where God may be calling you to trust Him more deeply?
- 4. Job prays for his friends—even after they hurt him. What does this teach us about forgiveness and grace?
- 5. How can we apply that to our relationships today?
- 6. How can you take a step toward surrender and trust this week?
- 7. How can we pray for you?

**Prayer:** Father God, we come before You in humility, just as Job did, acknowledging Your greatness and sovereignty. We confess that we often don't understand Your ways, but we trust that You are always good and just. Thank You for the reminder that even in our suffering, You are at work, and You restore us in Your perfect timing. Help us to be like Job, willing to forgive, pray for, and love those around us, even in difficult moments. We trust in Your promise of restoration and believe that You can bring healing, hope, and blessing to our lives. Strengthen our faith, deepen our relationship with You, and guide us through every season. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# **Citations and Recommended Reading:**

Zondervan Publishing. *Serendipity Bible-NIV: For Personal and Small Group Study*. Zondervan Publishing Company, 1996.

Newsom, Carol A. The Book of Job: A Contest of Moral Imaginations. Oxford University Press, 2009.

Ash, Christopher. Job: The Wisdom of the Cross. Crossway, 2014.

Atkinson, David J. The Message of Job (The Bible Speaks Today). InterVarsity Press, 2022.

"Preaching Notes for the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost (October..." *Discipleship Ministries*, United Methodist Church, 29 Sept. 2015, www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/preaching-notes-for-the-twenty-second-sunday-after-pentecost-2015.