

January 29 - February 4

## **Week 5**

This week we will finish the book of Job.

Notice that two new witnesses on suffering entered the story.

Elihu (day 2) was a young person who thought he knew more than he actually did. His speech extends for more than five chapters! Yet no one else in the book even acknowledged his presence except, perhaps, the Lord in Job 38:2.

The other witness was God himself, who pointed to the glories and mysteries of his creation.

Notice especially how the book of Job ends. Job didn't get answers; he just got God, who vindicated Job in the end.

This week we will also start another story of suffering. Act 2, scene 2 in the biblical narrative leads us through the deliverance of God's people from slavery in Egypt. We will read the way God raised up a savior to address slavery and will recognize ways Moses was both like and unlike Jesus, who would bring about a different kind of deliverance.

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**Day 1**

**Read Job 25-28**

**Act 2 - Scene 1 - Reading 22**

Job is filled with eloquent poetry.

In Hebrew poetry one primary feature is repetition, especially parallelism, two lines communicating the same or a contrasting thought.

Another device is the use of word pictures.

*Identify examples of parallelism and word pictures in the reading for today.*

Job 28 is a wonderful hymn about wisdom. Read this chapter and think about the source and nature of true wisdom.

*For what areas of life do you need wisdom today?*

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**Day 2**

**Read Job 29-32**

**Act 2 - Scene 1 - Reading 23**

In chapter 29 Job remembered the good old days when things were going well. This chapter contrasts greatly with the next.

*What are the most striking word pictures to you in chapters 29–30?*

In chapter 31 Job gave a long list of unrighteous actions or attitudes proclaiming his innocence.

*How do you respond when you feel falsely accused?*

*Identify the transition that takes place in chapter 32.*

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**Day 3**

**Read Job 33-36**

**Act 2 - Scene 1 - Reading 24**

Elihu personified overconfident youth. He repeated much of what his elders, Job's accusers, said, but he also spoke of the disciplinary nature of suffering. His words mixed what is true with what is false.

*Find one thing in your reading today you believe is true and one thing you believe is false.*

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**Day 4**

**Read Job 37:1-40:5; Psalm 19**

**Act 2 - Scene 1 - Reading 25**

After Job had asked for God's response throughout the whole book, the Lord finally spoke, beginning in chapter 38.

Yet God neither vindicated Job nor sided with his accusers. Rather, he hushed all human wisdom by pointing to his creation—his work of creating and sustaining the universe and the creatures in it.

Notice the parts of creation on which God focused in this passage.

*As you read Psalm 19, think of ways nature declares God's glory. Worship God in light of his creation.*

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**Day 5**

**Read Job 40:6 - 42:17; Psalm 29**

**Act 2 - Scene 1 - Reading 26**

Chapter 42 concludes Job's story. Think about Job's response and notice God's response to Job. In his suffering Job never got answers, but he got God.

How does this conclusion to the book of Job affect your view of suffering?

As you read Psalm 29, think of the great miracle represented by the fact that God has spoken to human beings at all and how powerful God's words are.

*Use the words of Psalm 29 to worship the Lord today.*

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## **Scene 2**

### **Deliverance: God rescues His people**

In the history of civilization, ancient Egypt rises as one of the early successes. Yet Egypt, with its many gods, becomes the great oppressor. Ironically, the same Moses who faces down Pharaoh was reared as a prince of Egypt.

The conflict between the Lord (Yahweh) and the gods of Egypt is memorably told. The plagues culminate in the death of Egypt's firstborn. The blood of the Passover lambs symbolizes the high cost of deliverance.

Moses leads the Israelites in triumph out of Egypt. The destruction of Egypt's pride and power at the Red Sea marks Israel as God's redeemed people.

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## **Day 6**

### **Read Exodus 1-4**

#### **Act 2 - Scene 2 - Reading 1**

In this passage God tells the story of the deliverer he raised up to lead his people out of captivity in Egypt. Watch for important details as you read.

*What did you learn about Moses in these chapters?*

Here we also learn more about God. He identified himself as I AM (see Ex 3:14), which means something like the Self-Existent One; that is, God depends on no one for his existence.

*Read John 8:58 and think about the significance of Jesus's words in that passage.*

Exodus 4:21-23 shows God's adoption of the people of Israel as his son. Immediately afterward we have the strange story in Exodus 4:24-26. Circumcision is the clue here.

*Where have we seen this practice before, and why would it have been so important for Moses, through his wife, to perform the procedure on his son?*

*What are the spiritual marks of your relationship with God?*

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## **Day 7**

### **Reading Summary for Week 5**

By the end of Job, we observed how God can receive glory when his people suffer and persevere in faith without understanding why.

In the psalm texts, we joined David in praising God whose glory is revealed in creation and in his Word.

Then we read about how the Israelites suffered in Egypt. Just as God delivered Job, so he would rescue his people from bondage. Yet he took time to prepare Moses as his agent through whom redemption would come.

### **Prayer/Meditation**

Lord God of Job and Moses, I praise you for your mighty voice. Help me acknowledge your glorious majesty today. May I always live in holy awe of you, for your purposes can never be thwarted. Help me trust in your goodness, like Job did, even when I cannot understand what's going on around me. Overwhelm me with the reality that you are "I AM WHO I AM" in my life, just as you revealed yourself to Moses. Amen.

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