

A Study of the Life of Job

Job - Chapters 1 & 2

Lesson 1

"Indeed, we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord--that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful" (James 5:11). As we embark upon this study of the story of a man who lost all but his life and his wife, may we learn from his *perseverance* and come to a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Lord's *compassion and mercy*.

Observation: Read Job 1

1. Read Job 1 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Job, or Satan*.

Key Words: *God (LORD), Job, and Satan*

3. Describe the following as revealed in this chapter.

God

Job

Satan

4. The contrasting word *but* is used in verse 11. Mark the word. Record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 1

1. Job 1 begins with a description of Job's character. List the four traits mentioned in verse 1.
 - a. What is the difference between being *blameless* and being *sinless*?
 - b. Use synonyms to define the word *shunned*.
2. Job was a man with many possessions. In Old Testament times, possessions were viewed as blessings from God. The apostle Paul would have considered himself blessed by God. Yet, record the words of 2 Corinthians 11:27 that describe some of the things he endured.
 - a. What does this say to you about who God blesses?
3. Job *regularly sanctified* his children (verse 5). He set them apart for God's purposes. What are some things godly parents can do as they raise their children today?
 - a. What is the significance of the word *regularly*?
 - b. Although Job raised his children to fear God, what was his concern? (Verse 5)
4. Job 1:1-5 describe the scene of Job's life on earth. Verse 6 begins with the words *Now there was a day*. On that day, Satan came before God. According to verse 7, what had he been doing?
 - a. Using 1 Peter 5:8, explain what Satan does as he walks about.

5. Summarize the conversation between God and Satan. (Verses 8-12)
 - a. What was Satan's goal? (Verse 11)
6. God placed all but Job's person into Satan's hands. Write the words Jesus said to Simon (Peter) before Peter denied Him. Luke 22:31
 - a. What are your thoughts when you consider the fact that Satan must get God's permission?
 - b. Return to Luke 22:31 and reflect upon the words of the following verse, verse 32.
7. Job 1:6 begins with the word *now*, marking the transition from the scene on earth to the scene in heaven. Verse 13 begins with the word *now* returning to the scene on earth. The blessed scene of the first few verses of chapter 1 was about to change. What was reported to Job by:

the first messenger

the second messenger

the third messenger

the fourth messenger
8. How did Job respond? Verses 20-22
 - a. What truths about God did Job acknowledge?

- b. What truths about God do you remind yourself of during difficult times?
- c. Verse 22 ends with the words, "*In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.*" What are some ways Job could have sinned?
- d. Job did not charge God with wrong. Write your own paraphrase of the following verses.

James 1:17

Romans 9:20

Observation: Read Job 2

1. Read Job 2 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God*, *Job*, or *Satan*, and each of Job's three friends.

Key Words: *God (LORD)*, *Job*, *Satan*, *Eliphaz*, *Bildad*, and *Zophar*

3. Describe the following as the chapter reveals them:

God

Job

Satan

Job's friends

4. The contrasting word *but* is used three times in chapter 2. Mark the words. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Read JOB 2

1. With what word does Job 2 begin?
2. Note the similarities in the conversation between God and Satan in Job 1:6-8 and Job 2:1-3. God added to His description of Job as recorded in the last sentence of verse 3. What did God say about Job?
 - a. What does it mean to hold fast to your integrity?
 - b. The fact that Job held fast to his integrity was meaningful to God. When you are tempted to sin and curse God, what do you do to hold fast to your integrity?
3. Summarize Satan's response in verses 4 and 5.
4. God then gave Satan permission to do what he could not do in chapter 1, lay a hand on Job's person. What was Satan's limitation now?

5. *Satan struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head* (verse 7). Who appeared on the scene in verse 9?
 - a. Along with Satan, what did she encourage Job to do? (Verse 9)
 - b. What might be some better ways to come alongside our loved ones who are troubled?
 - c. Have you ever been in a place where you wanted to curse God and die? If so, reflect upon that time and record one thought.
6. What was Job's response to his wife's "encouragement"?
 - a. What does it mean practically to accept adversity?
 - b. Consider the words written by Jeremiah in Lamentations 3:38-41. What did he encourage the people to do?
7. Job's three friends heard of all this adversity. According to verse 11, what did they intend to do?
 - a. They did not recognize Job when they saw him. What did they do?
 - b. Although Job's friends will fail to comfort Job many times in the chapters that follow, in what ways were their actions in this chapter a comfort?

Review: Job 1 and 2

1. In Job 1:1, we read that one of the qualities exhibited by Job is that he feared God. What does it mean for you to fear God?

2. What have you learned about Satan?

a. Does what you learned about him change how you think or will live your life?

3. Job experienced economic loss, the loss of loved ones, and a painful illness. Maybe you can relate to one or more than one of these. How did you feel and how did you act when facing these challenges? Compare yourself to Job.

4. What did you learn from the example of:

Job

Job's wife

Job's friends

a. From the above examples what will you apply to your life?

5. Who or what do you think are the cause of Job's suffering? Was it Job, God, other people, Satan, or random chance; explain.

- a. Should the cause of our suffering justify our response to it? Why or why not?

- 6. In what ways have you been challenged by this lesson?

that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:7

Observation Worksheet

Job 1

¹ There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. ² And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. ³ Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East. ⁴ And his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly. ⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. ⁷ And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." ⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" ⁹ So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" ¹² And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. ¹³ Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house; ¹⁴ and a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵ when the Sabeans raided them and took them away--indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" ¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" ¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" ¹⁸ While he was still speaking, another also came and said,

"Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" ²⁰ Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. ²¹ And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD." ²² In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

Job 2

¹ Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. ² And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." ³ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause." ⁴ So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. ⁵ But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" ⁶ And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life." ⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸ And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes. ⁹ Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" ¹⁰ But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips. ¹¹ Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, each one came from his own place--Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. For they had made an appointment together to come and mourn with him, and to comfort him. ¹² And when they raised their eyes from afar, and did not recognize him, they lifted their voices and wept; and each one tore his robe and sprinkled dust on his head toward heaven. ¹³ So they sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great.

TEACHING NOTES

A Study of the Life of Job

Job - Chapters 3-5

Lesson 2

After seven days of silent suffering, Job spoke, not to curse God, but to curse the day of his birth. The first of his friends, Eliphaz, then responded not to Job's distress, but to the words of his lips, falling short of supplying to Job the comfort he desired.

Observation: Read Job 3

1. Read Job 3 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to God and Job.

Key Words: *God, Job, may/nor, why, darkness, and light*

3. The keywords *may* and *nor* appear seventeen times in Job 3. List some of the things Job wished would happen.
4. Job used the word *why* seven times in Job 3. List 4 of the questions Job asked.

Read Job 3

1. After seven days of sitting with Job in silence, Job opened his mouth. What did he do?
 - a. Satan's goal was to provoke Job to curse God (Job 1:11;25). Cursing the day of his birth was not cursing God. Before you make a judgment on what Job did, read verses 3-10 and describe Job's mood or feelings.
 - b. These statements all took the form of Job cursing the day he was conceived and the day was born. Darkness indicates the time in the womb. Light indicates birth (life outside the womb). Job summarized these verses himself with the words of Job 3:10. What did he say?
2. Job was not alone in these sorts of expressions. Record the words of Jeremiah 20:14-18.
 - a. How would you describe the emotional state of someone who expresses these sentiments?
3. Notice the progressing from cursing the day of his birth to questioning his birth in verses 11-23. Why might this be a common progression?
4. Record the last phrase of Psalm 77:3.
 - a. Why is complaining not profitable?
 - b. Read Psalm 77:10-12 and record what the psalmist said he would do in his anguish.

- c. Why is choosing to remember the good things God had done a good thing to do, especially in times of despair or anguish?
5. Job described his condition in verses 24-26. List each of the phrases that he used.

- a. Underline the feeling words. If you were sitting with someone who expressed his condition as Job did, what would you say to her/him?

Observation: Read Job 4

1. Read Job 4 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God*, *Job*, or *Eliphaz*.

Key Words: *God*, *Job*, and *Eliphaz*

3. The contrasting word *but* is used 3 times in Job 4. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 4

1. The words spoken by Job in chapter 3 are presumably the first words his friends heard from Job. They had not heard his words recorded in chapters 1 and 2 that better expressed his

faith. The first friend to speak was Eliphaz. According to Job 4:2, what was his challenge to Job?

- a. What question did he then ask Job?
- b. Why do you think it is so difficult to withhold from speaking when we think we have the answers?
- c. What are some things we might do before we speak?

2. Eliphaz knew well of Job's reputation. Using verses 3 and 4, list the good works that Job had done.
3. *But now it comes upon you, and you are weary; it touches you and you are troubled* (verse 5). Using your own words, explain this verse.
 - a. What questions did Eliphaz ask in verse 6? In what way can a person's lifestyle become their confidence?
4. In Job 4:7-11, Eliphaz explained what he believed to be the source of Job's troubles. Read the accusations of verses 7 and 8. What was Eliphaz accusing Job of?
 - a. In verses 9-11 Eliphaz describes the anger of the LORD, which he believes is towards those who sin. Write one phrase that captures the anger Eliphaz views God as having toward Job.

5. Eliphaz claimed to have had a vision (verses 12-16). What did he report to be his reaction?
 - a. Read verses 17-21 to see what Eliphaz claimed the voice said. Notice that nothing said was contrary to God's word. However, why might words regarding the fact that neither man nor angels are more righteous than God not profit a person in despair?

Observation: Read Job 5

1. Read Job 5 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God*, *Job*, or *Eliphaz*.

Key Words: *God*, *Job* (verses 1,27) and *Eliphaz* (verses 3,7,8)

3. The contrasting words *but* and *yet* are used six times in Job 5. Mark the words. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 5

1. In Job 5:1-5, rather than directly calling Job foolish, Eliphaz described the foolish man and his fate.
 - a. Consider the words of verse 6 where Eliphaz reminds Job that affliction doesn't come from nowhere. What are some sources of affliction?

b. Given there can be many reasons for affliction, what should we consider before we attribute one of those reasons to someone's suffering?

2. In verse 8, Eliphaz claimed that if he were in Job's place, *he would seek God, and to God he would commit his cause.* Using verses 8-20, list at least five things Eliphaz said about God.

a. Notice that each claim about God is true, but Job was the one in distress. Why would it have been profitable for Eliphaz to also seek God?

b. Considering Eliphaz's declaration about what he would do in verse 8, what might he have been assuming about Job?

c. According to verse 17, what else might Eliphaz be assuming?

3. Meditate on the truths of Job 5:18. Confirm the positive aspects of these truths by writing the words of Psalm 147:3.

a. Reflect upon a time when God healed your broken heart or bound up your wounds.

4. Eliphaz seems to be encouraging Job to confess the sin that has brought on God's chastening. In doing so, he could reap the benefits delineated in verses 19-26. What are some of those benefits?

a. What was the error of Eliphaz's thinking?

5. Eliphaz wrapped up the first phase of his counsel stating that what he said had been searched out and was true. What did Eliphaz tell Job to do?

Review: Job 3-5

1. Job expressed his pain in a way that many Christians would rebuke. What is your impression of Job's extreme statements, cursing the day of his birth?
 - a. Have you ever been guilty of this type of attitude? What were the circumstances?
 - b. Are we ever justified for saying something like this? Explain.
2. Eliphaz knew of Job's good reputation. Yet, he chose to respond to Job's lament rather than Job's life of faith. What can you learn from Eliphaz's mistake that you need to apply to your life?
3. Summarize the point of Eliphaz's speech.
4. Why can it be error to use truth without knowledge of a person or situation?

5. As you reflect on Eliphaz's response to Job, why are people tempted to think bad things happen only to people who have sinned or deserve it?

6. What have you learned that is significant or relevant to your life?

The works of the LORD are great, studied by all who have pleasure in them. - Psalm 111:2

Observation Worksheet

Job 3

¹ After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. ² And Job spoke and said: ³ "May the day perish on which I was born, and the night in which it was said, 'A male child is conceived.' ⁴ May that day be darkness; may God above not seek it, nor the light shine upon it. ⁵ May darkness and the shadow of death claim it; may a cloud settle on it; may the blackness of the day terrify it. ⁶ As for that night, may darkness seize it; may it not rejoice among the days of the year, may it not come into the number of the months. ⁷ Oh, may that night be barren! May no joyful shout come into it! ⁸ May those curse it who curse the day, those who are ready to arouse Leviathan. ⁹ May the stars of its morning be dark; may it look for light, but have none, and not see the dawning of the day; ² because it did not shut up the doors of my mother's womb, nor hide sorrow from my eyes. ¹¹ "Why did I not die at birth? Why did I not perish when I came from the womb? ¹² Why did the knees receive me? Or why the breasts, that I should nurse? ¹³ For now I would have lain still and been quiet, I would have been asleep; then I would have been at rest ¹⁴ with kings and counselors of the earth, who built ruins for themselves, ¹⁵ or with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver; ¹⁶ or why was I not hidden like a stillborn child, like infants who never saw light? ¹⁷ There the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest. ¹⁸ There the prisoners rest together; they do not hear the voice of the oppressor. ¹⁹ The small and great are there, and the servant is free from his master. ²⁰ "Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter of soul, ²¹ who long for death, but it does not come, and search for it more than hidden treasures; ²² who rejoice exceedingly, and are glad when they can find the grave? ²³ Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, and whom God has hedged in? ²⁴ For my sighing comes before I eat, and my groanings pour out like water. ²⁵ For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me. ²⁶ I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, for trouble comes."

Job 4

¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said: ² "If one attempts a word with you, will you become weary? But who can withhold himself from speaking? ³ Surely you have instructed many, and you have strengthened weak hands. ⁴ Your words have upheld him who was

stumbling, and you have strengthened the feeble knees; 5 but now it comes upon you, and you are weary; it touches you, and you are troubled. 6 Is not your reverence your confidence? And the integrity of your ways your hope? 7 Remember now, whoever perished being innocent? Or where were the upright ever cut off? 8 Even as I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same. 9 By the blast of God they perish, and by the breath of His anger they are consumed. 10 The roaring of the lion, the voice of the fierce lion, and the teeth of the young lions are broken. 11 The old lion perishes for lack of prey, and the cubs of the lioness are scattered. 12 Now a word was secretly brought to me, and my ear received a whisper of it. ¹³ In disquieting thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, ¹⁴ fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones shake. ¹⁵ Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair on my body stood up. ¹⁶ It stood still, but I could not discern its appearance. A form was before my eyes; there was silence; then I heard a voice saying: ¹⁷ 'Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than his Maker? ¹⁸ If He puts no trust in His servants, if He charges His angels with terror, ¹⁹ how much more those who dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, who are crushed before a moth? ²⁰ They are broken in pieces from morning till evening; they perish forever, with no one regarding. ²¹ Does not their own excellence go away? They die, even without wisdom.'

Job 5

¹ "Call out now; is there anyone who will answer you? And to which of the holy ones will you turn? ² For wrath kills a foolish man, and envy slays a simple one. ³ I have seen the foolish taking root, but suddenly I cursed his dwelling place. ⁴ His sons are far from safety, they are crushed in the gate, and there is no deliverer. ⁵ Because the hungry eat up his harvest, taking it even from the thorns, and a snare snatches their substance. ⁶ For affliction does not come from the dust, nor does trouble spring from the ground; ⁷ yet man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward.

⁸ "But as for me, I would seek God, and to God I would commit my cause-- ⁹ Who does great things, and unsearchable, marvelous things without number. ¹⁰ He gives rain on the earth, and sends waters on the fields. ¹¹ He sets on high those who are lowly, and those who mourn are lifted to safety. ¹² He frustrates the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot carry out their plans. ¹³ He catches the wise in their own craftiness, and the counsel of the cunning comes quickly upon them. ¹⁴ They meet with darkness in the daytime, and grope at noontime as in the night. ¹⁵ But He saves the needy from the sword, from the mouth of the mighty, and from their hand. ¹⁶ So the poor have hope, and injustice shuts her mouth. ¹⁷ "Behold, happy is the man whom God

corrects; therefore, do not despise the chastening of the Almighty. ¹⁸For He bruises, but He binds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole. ¹⁹He shall deliver you in six troubles, yes, in seven no evil shall touch you. ²⁰In famine He shall redeem you from death, and in war from the power of the sword. ²¹You shall be hidden from the scourge of the tongue, and you shall not be afraid of destruction when it comes. ²²You shall laugh at destruction and famine, and you shall not be afraid of the beasts of the earth. ²³For you shall have a covenant with the stones of the field, and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with you. ²⁴You shall know that your tent is in peace; you shall visit your dwelling and find nothing amiss. ²⁵You shall also know that your descendants shall be many, and your offspring like the grass of the earth. ²⁶You shall come to the grave at a full age, as a sheaf of grain ripens in its season. ²⁷Behold, this we have searched out; it is true. Hear it and know for yourself."

TEACHING NOTES

A Study of the Life of Job

Job - Chapters 6-8

Lesson 3

"You may be as orthodox as the devil, and as wicked" -John Wesley. Job responded with two passionate appeals. First, he appealed to his friends that they might show more understanding and sympathy. His friends did not misquote God as much as they misunderstood Him. Secondly, he appealed to God, that He would consider his plight and lighten his sufferings. May we seek to know God and others before we speak what we believe to be God's wisdom.

Observation: Read Job 6

1. Read Job 6 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God*, *Job*, and *Eliphaz*.

Key Words: *God, Job, your/your (Eliphaz)*

3. The contrasting word *but* is used in verse 25. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 6

1. Job 6 begins with the words, *Then Job answered and said*. Eliphaz spoke to Job in response to his understanding of why Job is suffering and what Job needs to do. Job attempts to bring Eliphaz to a place where he sees Job's distress. Why did the words Job said in Job 3:3 seem rash? Use Job 6:2-4 to answer.
 - a. Using synonyms, define the word rash.
 - b. What are some words you would use to describe distress?
2. What question did Job ask in verse 5?
 - a. Job was stating that a donkey does not bray, nor does the ox low unless it is hungry. In the same way, Job was justifying his complaints. In his misery, what did Job say he wanted? (Verses 9,10)
3. Job then moved into a series of questions. Using verses 11-13, list his questions.
 - a. Read Job 6:13. Describe the hopelessness of feeling like God has forsaken you and not having the power to help yourself.
 - b. Although Job felt hopeless, why was he not without hope?

Psalm 31:24

Psalm 38:15

Challenge: List other verses that speak of the hope we have in God.

4. Read Job's expectations of his friends in Job 6:14 and share your thoughts.
5. In Job 6:15-21, Job criticized Eliphaz. Notice the last phrase of verse 21, *you see terror and are afraid*. Often, we are not able to minister to someone because their trial is overwhelming to us. Rather than shirk from comforting them, what should we do?
6. Job both defends himself and challenges Eliphaz in verses 22-28. Record two phrases of:
Job's defense
- Job's challenge
7. Notice that Job's challenges to Eliphaz were all demands for proof of his accusations. Yet, his chief concern was something Job wanted him to concede (admit). What was it? Verse 29

Observation: Read Job 7

1. Read Job 7 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job*

Read Job 7

1. *But as for me, I would seek God.* (Job 5:8). So, Job does just that in this chapter. Using verses 1-5, record a few words that Job used to describe his life.
 - a. Job lamented his wearisome nights. What is it like to lie awake most or all of the night?
 - b. King David could also relate to sleepless nights. Record his words from Psalm 6:6.
2. In Job 7:6-10, Job mourns the futility of life. Some of his statements are true; some are not. Record one true statement and one false statement.

True:

False:

- a. Why do you think we tend to say things we don't mean when we are hurting?
- b. How should you respond to someone who makes false statements when they are hurting?

- c. The book of Job uses the word *hope* 16 times. What connection does despair have with a lack of hope?
- 3. Job directed his complaint to God in verses 11-16. Here is where we are so tempted to step in and rebuke someone for speaking as Job did. Notice Job's words in verse 11. What did he say he would do?
- 4. Job asked a question in the negative sense that has been posed in the positive sense three other times in the Bible. What did Job ask in verse 17?
 - a. In what ways has God set His heart on you?

Challenge: use Scripture to support your answer.

- 5. Another question Job twisted is in verse 18. Praise God that He doesn't visit us every morning and test us every moment. What does Lamentation 3:22-23 say are new every morning?
 - a. Add to this the praise of Psalm 68:19. What are some benefits you have been loaded with recently?
- 6. The chapter closes with Job's questioning of God. Job could not understand why he seemed to be God's target. Reflect upon a time when you felt like Job. What were some of your thoughts?
 - a. What was Job's concern?

- b. What did Job call God in verse 20?
- c. Why is it a good thing to you that God is a *watcher of men*?

Observation: Read Job 8

1. Read Job 8 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God*, *Job*, and *Bildad*.

Key Words: *God*, *Job*, and *Bildad*

3. The contrasting word *but* occurs twice in verse 15. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted each time.

Read Job 8

1. *Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said...* The first words out of Bildad's mouth were those of judgment regarding Job's words. What did Bildad say about them in verse 2?
 - a. What is a person saying when they describe another's words as a strong wind?
2. Read Job 8:1-7. Summarize what Bildad was saying to Job.

- a. What two questions did Bildad ask Job in verse 3?
- b. Record the truth of Revelation 16:7.
- c. God's judgments are true and righteous. What did Bildad not understand as far as God's judgments toward Job? (See his accusation in verse 6.)

3. In Job 8:8-10 Bildad challenged Job to consider ancient wisdom. What are the pros and cons of considering the ways and wisdom of those who have gone before us?

- a. Share an example of wisdom you have gleaned from the experience of an older person?

4. After challenging Job to consider the wisdom of the ancients, he then bids Job to apply common sense wisdom. (verses 11-18) What do you think Bildad wanted Job to understand?

- a. Notice Bildad's emphasis on cause and effect, i.e. "You do this and this will happen", essentially telling Job that he did something to cause his affliction. Although sometimes true, why could this assumption be in error?
- b. Why might it be easy to assume that God is punishing someone to whom bad things were happening?

5. Job 8:19-22 recounts God's blessings upon the blameless. What are they?
 - a. We know that no one is *blameless* in the sense of being without fault or sin. What would you say to someone who wanted these blessings in their life?

Review: Job 6-8

1. Reflect upon Job's expressions of despair in Job 6. What did you learn from them that you can apply to your life?
2. Consider Job's frustration with Eliphaz. What do you think you would have said to Eliphaz?
3. We will all go through circumstances that we don't understand and that from a human perspective seem unfair. Like Job, we too may ask God some hard questions. Why is it good to seek and wait upon God's answers to our hard questions?
4. Has this lesson changed your thinking in any way? Explain.
5. Write one thing you would like to apply to your life from this lesson.

Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. - Psalm 51:8

Observation Worksheet

Job 6

³ Then Job answered and said: ² "Oh, that my grief were fully weighed, and my calamity laid with it on the scales! ³ For then it would be heavier than the sand of the sea-- therefore my words have been rash. ⁴ For the arrows of the Almighty are within me; my spirit drinks in their poison; the terrors of God are arrayed against me. ⁵ Does the wild donkey bray when it has grass, or does the ox low over its fodder? ⁶ Can flavorless food be eaten without salt? Or is there any taste in the white of an egg? ⁷ My soul refuses to touch them; they are as loathsome food to me. ⁸ "Oh, that I might have my request, that God would grant me the thing that I long for! ⁹ That it would please God to crush me, that He would loose His hand and cut me off! ¹⁰ Then I would still have comfort; though in anguish, I would exult, He will not spare; for I have not concealed the words of the Holy One. ¹¹ "What strength do I have, that I should hope? And what is my end, that I should prolong my life? ¹² Is my strength the strength of stones? Or is my flesh bronze? ¹³ Is my help not within me? And is success driven from me? ¹⁴ "To him who is afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend, even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty. ¹⁵ My brothers have dealt deceitfully like a brook, like the streams of the brooks that pass away, ¹⁶ which are dark because of the ice, and into which the snow vanishes. ¹⁷ When it is warm, they cease to flow; when it is hot, they vanish from their place. ¹⁸ The paths of their way turn aside, they go nowhere and perish. ¹⁹ The caravans of Tema look, the travelers of Sheba hope for them. ²⁰ They are disappointed because they were confident; they come there and are confused. ²¹ For now you are nothing, you see terror and are afraid. ²² Did I ever say, 'Bring something to me'? Or, 'Offer a bribe for me from your wealth'? ²³ Or, 'Deliver me from the enemy's hand'? Or, 'Redeem me from the hand of oppressors'? ²⁴ "Teach me, and I will hold my tongue; cause me to understand wherein I have erred. ²⁵ How forceful are right words! But what does your arguing prove? ²⁶ Do you intend to rebuke my words, and the speeches of a desperate one, which are as wind? ²⁷ Yes, you overwhelm the fatherless, and you undermine your friend. ²⁸ Now therefore, be pleased to look at me; for I would never lie to your face. ²⁹ Yield now, let there be no injustice! Yes, concede, my righteousness still stands! ³⁰ Is there injustice on my tongue? Cannot my taste discern the unsavory?

Job 7

1 "Is there not a time of hard service for man on earth? Are not his days also like the days of a hired man? 2 Like a servant who earnestly desires the shade, and like a hired man who eagerly looks for his wages, 3 so I have been allotted months of futility, and wearisome nights have been appointed to me. 4 When I lie down, I say, 'When shall I arise, and the night be ended?' For I have had my fill of tossing till dawn. 5 My flesh is caked with worms and dust, my skin is cracked and breaks out afresh. 6 My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope. 7 Oh, remember that my life is a breath! My eye will never again see good. 8 The eye of him who sees me will see me no more; while your eyes are upon me, I shall no longer be. 9 As the cloud disappears and vanishes away, so he who goes down to the grave does not come up. 10 He shall never return to his house, nor shall his place know him anymore. 11 "Therefore, I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul. 12 Am I a sea, or a sea serpent, that You set a guard over me? 13 When I say, 'My bed will comfort me, my couch will ease my complaint,' 14 then You scare me with dreams and terrify me with visions, 15 so that my soul chooses strangling and death rather than my body. 16 I loathe my life; I would not live forever. Let me alone, for my days are but a breath. 17 "What is man, that You should exalt him, that You should set Your heart on him, 18 that You should visit him every morning, and test him every moment? 19 How long? Will You not look away from me, and let me alone till I swallow my saliva? 20 Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target, so that I am a burden to myself? 21 Why then do You not pardon my transgression, and take away my iniquity? For now I will lie down in the dust, and You will seek me diligently, but I will no longer be."

Job 8

1 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said: 2 "How long will you speak these things, and the words of your mouth be like a strong wind? 3 Does God subvert judgment? Or does the Almighty pervert justice? 4 If your sons have sinned against Him, He has cast them away for their transgression. 5 If you would earnestly seek God and make your supplication to the Almighty, 6 if you were pure and upright, surely now He would awake for you, and prosper your rightful dwelling place. 7 Though your beginning was small, yet your latter end would increase abundantly. 8 "For inquire, please, of the former age, and consider the things discovered by their fathers; 9 for we were born yesterday, and know nothing, because our days on earth are a shadow. 10 Will they not teach you and tell you, and utter words from their heart? 11 "Can the

papyrus grow up without a marsh? Can the reeds flourish without water? ¹² While it is yet green and not cut down, it withers before any other plant. ¹³ So are the paths of all who forget God; and the hope of the hypocrite shall perish, ¹⁴ whose confidence shall be cut off, and whose trust is a spider's web. ¹⁵ He leans on his house, but it does not stand. He holds it fast, but it does not endure. ¹⁶ He grows green in the sun, and his branches spread out in his garden. ¹⁷ His roots wrap around the rock heap, and look for a place in the stones. ¹⁸ If he is destroyed from his place, then it will deny him, saying, 'I have not seen you.' ¹⁹ "Behold, this is the joy of His way, and out of the earth others will grow. ²⁰ Behold, God will not cast away the blameless, nor will He uphold the evildoers. ²¹ He will yet fill your mouth with laughing, and your lips with rejoicing. ²² Those who hate you will be clothed with shame, and the dwelling place of the wicked will come to nothing."

TEACHING NOTES

A Study of the Life of Job

Job - Chapters 9-11

Lesson 4

Beginning with Job 9, the emphasis of the discussion is the justice of God. Job struggles for answers to questions like: How can a man be righteous before God? How can I answer God? And to summarize many of the questions of Job 11, Why was I born? Although God does not answer many of our "why" questions, He does answer these in other verses in the Bible. But He didn't answer Job. God's answer to Job will be His own integrity. In chapter 11, Zophar spoke accusing Job of guilt, ignorance of God, and stubbornness – words which only alienated Job. Although Job did not understand the LORD's reasons, Job continued to trust His goodness. You can probably relate to Job's questions; may you also relate to his trust.

Observation: Read Job 9

1. Read Job 9 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to God and Job.

Key Words: God and Job

3. The contrasting words *but* and *yet* occur five times in Job 9. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.
4. As you scan Job 9, consider the attributes of God that Job stated. Using just what Job declared, how would you describe God?

Read Job 9

1. Job's first reply to Bildad's statements in Job 9 was *Truly, I know it is so.* He agreed with Bildad's general premise that God rewards the righteous and corrects/judges sinners. But Job countered Bildad with a question. What was it?
 - a. Job was essentially asking, if he could not be found righteous before God, then who could be? Job's question is the most important question in the world. How can a man find God's approval? How can a man be considered righteous and not guilty before God?
 - b. The psalmist asked a similar question in Psalm 130:3. What was it?
 - c. Record the glorious answer of Psalm 130:4
 - d. Bask in the truth of Titus 3:5-7 and write the verses in your own words.
2. *If one wished to contend with Him, He could not answer Him one time out of a thousand* (Job 9:3). We will discover throughout this book that Job did *contend* with God. Record Job's realization at the end of the book from Job 42:3.
 - a. Why do you think we say and do things, when we know better?
3. Record Job's second question of the chapter from verse 4.
 - a. Consider a time you have hardened yourself against God. In what ways do you identify with the truths of this verse?

4. Scan through Job's statements about God in verses 4-13. List a few.
 - a. What attributes of God does Job seem to be ignoring?
 - b. What can be the results of not considering the entire character of God?
5. In Job 9:14-20, Job wonders how he can answer such a mighty God. Record a few statements that reflect his reasoning.
 - a. Record a statement or two that reflect Job's misunderstanding of God.
 - b. Job seems to think God is not approachable. What does Hebrews 4:16 remind us of?
6. Job 9:21-24 reflects Job's inability to defend himself before God. Read the verses and summarize what he is saying.
7. Job expressed a strong sense of condemnation in verses 25-31. Choose a few of his statements that express his feelings of futility.
 - a. How do the words of the following verses encourage you that there is hope?

Proverbs 28:13

Romans 8:1

8. Job's conclusion at this point is that he needs a mediator and God supplied that mediator. Who is that mediator? according to 1 John 2:1
 - a. What are your thoughts when you reflect upon the fact that Job's desire has been met in Jesus, not only for Job, but for you and all who call upon Him?

Observation: Read Job 10

1. Read Job 10 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job*

3. The contrasting word *yet* is used in verse 8. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 10

1. *My soul loathes my life...* (Job 10:1). As a result, what two things did Job decide to do?
 - a. Using synonyms, define the word *bitterness*.
 - b. From personal experience, describe the effects of giving bitterness free reign to *speak*.

2. The more Job strives for answers, the more questions he seems to have. According to verse 2, what did Job want God to do?
3. Although the statements in verses 3-7 are posed as questions, of what was Job accusing God?
4. In Job 10:8-12, Job reminds God that he is His creation. What did Job say about this?
 - a. Scan through Psalm 139 and list parallel thoughts.
 - b. When it seems that God is contending with you, how does it help to remind yourself of these truths?
 - c. Although Job acknowledged the wonder of God's creation, verse 8 ends with the words, *yet You would destroy me*. What did God say to Satan in Job 2:6?
 - d. What are some ways we can falsely accuse God?
5. Write the words of Job 10:13.
 - a. Job begins to touch on the core of the problem that stirred inside of him. He knew that God knew all the causes and answers for Job's condition; yet God did not tell Job. We have the privilege of knowing the source of Job's calamity. How do you think Job would have reacted if he would have known the truth behind his circumstances?

- b. As Job, we often do not know the source of our trials, which leads us to ask the question, why? What are some better questions to ask?
6. Read Job 10:18-22. What is Job basically asking God to do?
 - a. What would your life be like if God left you alone?

Observation: Read Job 11

1. Read Job 11 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Job, and Zophar*.

Key Words: *God, Job, and Zophar*

3. The contrasting word *but* occurs twice in Job 11. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted each time.

Read Job 11

1. Zophar the Naamathite now takes his shot at Job. This friend of Job's speaks the least of them all (only here and in Job 20), but perhaps he speaks the most arrogantly and confrontationally to Job. Using verses 2-3, how did Zophar describe Jobs words?

- a. Why might this approach not be the best?
2. What claim did Zophar say Job made in verse 4?
 - a. Job knew there was no special or specific sin on his part behind his losses. What is the difference between Zophar's claim regarding Job and Job's claim that there was not a specific sin that provoked his trial?
3. *But, oh that God would speak...* verse 5. According to Job 11:5-6, what did Zophar think God would do?
 - a. Why do we sometimes think that if God would speak to someone, His words would be condemning?
 - b. What is one thing you wish God would speak about?
 - c. What are some of your favorite words God has spoken to you through His Word?
4. What did Zophar say about God? Verses 7-10
5. Zophar encouraged Job by saying prepare your heart and stretch out your hands toward Him. Using verses 14-19, list the results Zophar promised.
6. What is the hope of the wicked?

Review: Job 9-11

1. As you consider Job's statements, what have you learned about how he is handling his distress?
2. Job expresses things like loathing his life, feeling condemned by God, despair, misery and bitterness. As we consider these feelings from Job in chapter 9-10, many would agree that they are legitimate. What should we do instead of relying on or acting on our feelings? Give scripture to validate your view if possible.
3. What have you learned about better ways to come alongside a person who is hurting?
4. Review chapters 9-11 and choose one verse that stands out to you, either in how it blesses, instructs or convicts you and explain why.

*He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor
punished us according to our iniquities - Psalm 103:10*

Observation Worksheet

Job 9

¹Then Job answered and said: ²"Truly I know it is so, but how can a man be righteous before God? ³If one wished to contend with Him, he could not answer Him one time out of a thousand. ⁴God is wise in heart and mighty in strength. Who has hardened himself against Him and prospered? ⁵He removes the mountains, and they do not know when He overturns them in His anger; ⁶He shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble; ⁷He commands the sun, and it does not rise; He seals off the stars; ⁸He alone spreads out the heavens, and treads on the waves of the sea; ⁹He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south; ¹⁰He does great things past finding out, yes, wonders without number. ¹¹If He goes by me, I do not see Him; if He moves past, I do not perceive Him; ¹²if He takes away, who can hinder Him? Who can say to Him, 'What are You doing?' ¹³God will not withdraw His anger, the allies of the proud lie prostrate beneath Him. ¹⁴"How then can I answer Him, and choose my words to reason with Him? ¹⁵For though I were righteous, I could not answer Him; I would beg mercy of my Judge. ¹⁶If I called and He answered me, I would not believe that He was listening to my voice. ¹⁷For He crushes me with a tempest, and multiplies my wounds without cause. ¹⁸He will not allow me to catch my breath, but fills me with bitterness. ¹⁹If it is a matter of strength, indeed He is strong; and if of justice, who will appoint my day in court? ²⁰Though I were righteous, my own mouth would condemn me; though I were blameless, it would prove me perverse. ²¹"I am blameless, yet I do not know myself; I despise my life. ²²It is all one thing; therefore I say, 'He destroys the blameless and the wicked.' ²³If the scourge slays suddenly, He laughs at the plight of the innocent. ²⁴The earth is given into the hand of the wicked. He covers the faces of its judges. If it is not He, who else could it be? ²⁵"Now my days are swifter than a runner; they flee away, they see no good. ²⁶They pass by like swift ships, like an eagle swooping on its prey. ²⁷If I say, 'I will forget my complaint, I will put off my sad face and wear a smile,' ²⁸I am afraid of all my sufferings; I know that You will not hold me innocent. ²⁹If I am condemned, why then do I labor in vain? ³⁰If I wash myself with snow water, and cleanse my hands with soap, ³¹yet You will plunge me into the pit, and my own clothes will abhor me. ³²"For He is not a man, as I am, that I may answer Him, and that we should go to court together. ³³Nor is there any mediator between us, who may lay his hand on us both. ³⁴Let Him take His rod away from me, and do not let dread of Him terrify me. ³⁵Then I would speak and not fear Him, but it is not so with me.

Job 10

¹"My soul loathes my life; I will give free course to my complaint, I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. ²I will say to God, 'Do not condemn me; show me why You contend with me. ³Does

it seem good to You that You should oppress, that You should despise the work of Your hands, and smile on the counsel of the wicked? ⁴Do You have eyes of flesh? Or do You see as man sees? ⁵Are Your days like the days of a mortal man? Are Your years like the days of a mighty man, ⁶that You should seek for my iniquity and search out my sin, ⁷although You know that I am not wicked, and there is no one who can deliver from Your hand? ⁸'Your hands have made me and fashioned me, an intricate unity; yet You would destroy me. ⁹Remember, I pray, that You have made me like clay. And will You turn me into dust again? ¹⁰Did You not pour me out like milk, and curdle me like cheese, ¹¹clothe me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews? ¹²You have granted me life and favor, and Your care has preserved my spirit. ¹³'And these things You have hidden in Your heart; I know that this was with You: ¹⁴If I sin, then You mark me, and will not acquit me of my iniquity. ¹⁵If I am wicked, woe to me; even if I am righteous, I cannot lift up my head. I am full of disgrace; see my misery! ¹⁶If my head is exalted, You hunt me like a fierce lion, and again You show Yourself awesome against me. ¹⁷You renew Your witnesses against me, and increase Your indignation toward me; changes and war are ever with me. ¹⁸'Why then have You brought me out of the womb? Oh, that I had perished and no eye had seen me! ¹⁹I would have been as though I had not been. I would have been carried from the womb to the grave. ²⁰Are not my days few? Cease! Leave me alone, that I may take a little comfort, ²¹before I go to the place from which I shall not return, to the land of darkness and the shadow of death, ²²a land as dark as darkness itself, as the shadow of death, without any order, where even the light is like darkness.'"

Job 11

¹ Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said: ² "Should not the multitude of words be answered? And should a man full of talk be vindicated? ³Should your empty talk make men hold their peace? And when you mock, should no one rebuke you? ⁴For you have said, 'My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in your eyes.' ⁵But oh, that God would speak, and open His lips against you, ⁶that He would show you the secrets of wisdom! For they would double your prudence. Know therefore that God exacts from you less than your iniquity deserves. ⁷"Can you search out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limits of the Almighty? ⁸They are higher than heaven--what can you do? Deeper than Sheol--what can you know? ⁹Their measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea. ¹⁰"If He passes by, imprisons, and gathers to judgment, then who can hinder Him? ¹¹For He knows deceitful men; He sees wickedness also. Will He not then consider it? ¹²For an empty-headed man will be wise, when a wild donkey's colt is born a man. ¹³"If you would prepare your heart, and stretch out your hands toward Him; ¹⁴if iniquity were in your hand, and you put it far away, and would not let wickedness dwell in your tents; ¹⁵then surely you could lift up your face without spot; yes, you could be steadfast, and not fear; ¹⁶because you would forget your misery, and remember it as waters that have passed

away,¹⁷ and your life would be brighter than noonday. Though you were dark, you would be like the morning.¹⁸ And you would be secure, because there is hope; yes, you would dig around you, and take your rest in safety.¹⁹ You would also lie down, and no one would make you afraid; yes, many would court your favor.²⁰ But the eyes of the wicked will fail, and they shall not escape, and their hope--loss of life!"

TEACHING NOTES

A Study of the Life of Job

Job - Chapters 12-14

Lesson 5

Much of these chapters reflect Job's response to Zophar's statements and accusations. Job began with Zophar's second accusation - that Job had no knowledge of God (Job 11:5-12). Job affirmed that he had wisdom and understanding just as they did (Job 12). Then he replied to Zophar's first accusation - that Job was a guilty sinner (11:1-4). Job once again affirmed his integrity (Job 13). Job then closed his speech by challenging Zophar's third point - that there was still hope (11:13-20). Although Job expressed confidence in God and in his own innocence, in Job 14 we see Job admitting that his hope is almost gone.

Observation: Read Job 12

1. Read Job 12 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God*, *Job*, and words that relate to Job's friends.

3. The contrasting word *but* occurs two times in Job 12. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 12

1. Job's response to the words of his friends was tainted with sarcasm. What did he say to them in verse 2?

2. List the three statements Job made in verse 3.
 - a. Summarize Job's point.

 - b. How do you feel when someone gives you advice that belittles you?

 - c. Job was irritated by the advice given by his friends. If asked, they would have probably stated their good intentions. Before giving advice, what are some things we should consider?

3. Rather than console Job, as his friends intended, what two words did Job use in verse 4 to describe the results of their statements?
 - a. Use synonyms to define the words:

mocked

ridiculed

b. Connect Job's statements in verses 2-3 with his feelings of being mocked and ridiculed by reflecting on some of Job's friends' statements in previous chapters. Record one statement or attitude from those chapters that might have provoked these feelings.

4. In verses 7-12, Job explained his understanding of God's ways. To what things or creatures did Job point to as evidence of God's ways?

a. Job was stating that even animals understand the basics – that all things are under God's sovereignty. Write the words of Job 12:10.

b. Considering Job's suffering, what do you think he was stating about God?

5. Job used the rest of the chapter to show Zophar that he indeed understood the power of God. Scan verses 13-25 and list what God has power over.

a. Consider your own life. What does God have power over?

Observation: Read Job 13

1. Read Job 13 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God*, *Job*, and words that relate to *Job's* friends.

3. The contrasting words *but* and *yet* occur three times in *Job 13*. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read *Job 13*

1. *Job* warned his friends that in erroneously speaking for *God*, *He* would hold them accountable for misrepresenting *Him*. What are some instances when you heard someone misrepresent *God*?
2. What do the following verses express regarding the character/intentions of *God*?

Isaiah 40:11

Jeremiah 29:11

Jeremiah 33:3

Romans 8:38-39

Philippians 2:13

Ephesians 3:20

James 1:17

3. What are some characteristics/intentions of God that people use to describe Him that are erroneous?
4. Amid all of Job's pain and distress, what statement did he make in the first part of verse 15?
 - a. Record the words of Habakkuk as he faced a great calamity. See Habakkuk 3:17-18.
 - b. In your own words, express the words of Habakkuk 3:17-18.
 - c. What do you need to know about God, before you can sincerely say those words?
5. Although Job appeared to be so helpless, according to Job 13:16, what did he know God would be for him?
 - a. The word *salvation* indicates the idea of rescuing from distress or danger. What does this say to you that, in the midst of his hopelessness, Job still believed God would rescue him?

6. In Job 13:18, Job declared that he knew he would be vindicated. Using verse 21, list the two things Job did not want God to do to him.
 - a. Why are these two things something to dread?
 - b. Go back to Job 7:16. Notice that Job wanted God to leave him alone. Now we read, that Job feared that possibility. Consider times when you have thought or felt rashly. Express your thanksgiving to God for not granting your request.
7. Read the final words of this chapter. Job was the one decaying like a rotten thing; Job was like a garment that is moth-eaten. Zophar could talk about it; Job was living it. What can we learn from this when ministering to others?

Observation: Read Job 14

1. Read Job 14 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job*

3. The contrasting words *but* and *yet* occur five times in Job 14. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 14

1. Job continued his reflections on the brevity of man's life (verses 1-12). As you consider the brevity of your life, what are your thoughts?

2. Beginning with verse 13, we see that although Job longs for the grave, he hopes for a life beyond it. Knowledge of the afterlife was limited to those of the Old Testament. Although this was a hope for Job, what assurance does Paul give us in 2 Timothy 1:10?

3. Record the last four words of Job 14:14.
 - a. Using 1 Corinthians 15:51-55, describe that change that will happen to all believers.

 - b. What change are you personally looking forward to?

4. Record the last phrase of Job 14:15.
 - a. You are the work of His hands. What was the psalmists request in Psalm 138:8?

 - b. Reflect and comment upon what it means to you that God desires you.

5. *My transgression is sealed up in a bag, and You cover my iniquity* (verse 17). Explain what God has done with your sin. Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.

6. In verses 18-22, Job reflects upon his seeming *hopelessness*. There is truth in his declaration of God's sovereignty. Yet, what thinking do you see that might contribute to Job's distress?

Review: Job 12-14

1. What aspects of God's character are revealed to us in chapters 12-14?
 - a. Why is it important for us to know these things about God?
 - b. How should the fact that God is all powerful make us feel?
2. We know that life is fleeting. (Job 8:9, Job 14:2) Does or should this affect how you live your life? Explain.
3. How is your understanding of life after death like or unlike Job's?
4. In these chapters we are given a glimpse of the sense of hopelessness that Job feels and the desire for his suffering to end. We, like Job, may feel hopeless and even despair in our own hardships and struggles. How can we have hope in these situations? What gives you comfort in them? Share a scripture to support your answer if you are able.

5. Share a way this lesson has impacted you.

It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.
Lamentations 3:26

Observation Worksheet

Job 12

¹Then Job answered and said: ²"No doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with you! ³But I have understanding as well as you; I am not inferior to you. Indeed, who does not know such things as these? ⁴I am one mocked by his friends, who called on God, and He answered him, the just and blameless who is ridiculed. ⁵A lamp is despised in the thought of one who is at ease; it is made ready for those whose feet slip. ⁶The tents of robbers prosper, and those who provoke God are secure-- in what God provides by His hand. ⁷But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ⁸or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain to you. ⁹Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this, ¹⁰in whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind? ¹¹Does not the ear test words and the mouth taste its food? ¹²Wisdom is with aged men, and with length of days, understanding. ¹³With Him are wisdom and strength, He has counsel and understanding. ¹⁴If He breaks a thing down, it cannot be rebuilt; if He imprisons a man, there can be no release. ¹⁵If He withholds the waters, they dry up; if He sends them out, they overwhelm the earth. ¹⁶With Him are strength and prudence. The deceived and the deceiver are His. ¹⁷He leads counselors away plundered, and makes fools of the judges. ¹⁸He loosens the bonds of kings, and binds their waist with a belt. ¹⁹He leads princes away plundered, and overthrows the mighty. ²⁰He deprives the trusted ones of speech, and takes away the discernment of the elders. ²¹He pours contempt on princes, and disarms the mighty. ²²He uncovers deep things out of darkness, and brings the shadow of death to light. ²³He makes nations great, and destroys them; He enlarges nations, and guides them. ²⁴He takes away the understanding of the chiefs of the people of the earth, and makes them wander in a pathless wilderness. ²⁵They grope in the dark without light, and He makes them stagger like a drunken man.

Job 13

¹"Behold, my eye has seen all this, my ear has heard and understood it. ²What you know, I also know; I am not inferior to you. ³But I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God. ⁴But you forgers of lies, you are all worthless physicians. ⁵Oh, that you would be silent, and it would be your wisdom! ⁶Now hear my reasoning, and heed the pleadings of my lips. ⁷Will you speak wickedly for God, and talk deceitfully for Him? ⁸Will you show partiality for Him? Will you contend for God? ⁹Will it be well when He searches you out? Or can you mock Him as one mocks a man? ¹⁰He will surely rebuke you if you secretly show partiality. ¹¹Will not His excellence make you afraid, and the dread of Him fall upon you? ¹²Your platitudes are proverbs of ashes, your defenses are defenses of clay. ¹³"Hold your peace with me, and let me

speak, then let come on me what may! ¹⁴ Why do I take my flesh in my teeth, and put my life in my hands? ¹⁵ Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him. ¹⁶ He also shall be my salvation, for a hypocrite could not come before Him. ¹⁷ Listen carefully to my speech, and to my declaration with your ears. ¹⁸ See now, I have prepared my case, I know that I shall be vindicated. ¹⁹ Who is he who will contend with me? If now I hold my tongue, I perish. ²⁰ Only two things do not do to me, then I will not hide myself from You: ²¹ Withdraw Your hand far from me, and let not the dread of You make me afraid. ²² Then call, and I will answer; or let me speak, then You respond to me. ²³ How many are my iniquities and sins? Make me know my transgression and my sin. ²⁴ Why do You hide Your face, and regard me as Your enemy? ²⁵ Will You frighten a leaf driven to and fro? And will You pursue dry stubble? ²⁶ For You write bitter things against me, and make me inherit the iniquities of my youth. ²⁷ You put my feet in the stocks, and watch closely all my paths. You set a limit for the soles of my feet. ²⁸ "Man decays like a rotten thing, like a garment that is moth-eaten.

Job 14

¹ "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. ² He comes forth like a flower and fades away; he flees like a shadow and does not continue. ³ And do You open Your eyes on such a one, and bring me to judgment with Yourself? ⁴ Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one! ⁵ Since his days are determined, the number of his months is with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass. ⁶ Look away from him that he may rest, till like a hired man he finishes his day. ⁷ "For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its tender shoots will not cease. ⁸ Though its root may grow old in the earth, and its stump may die in the ground, ⁹ yet at the scent of water it will bud and bring forth branches like a plant. ¹⁰ But man dies and is laid away; indeed he breathes his last and where is he? ¹¹ As water disappears from the sea, and a river becomes parched and dries up, ¹² so man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more, they will not awake nor be roused from their sleep. ¹³ "Oh, that You would hide me in the grave, that You would conceal me until Your wrath is past, that You would appoint me a set time, and remember me! ¹⁴ If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my change comes. ¹⁵ You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands. ¹⁶ For now You number my steps, but do not watch over my sin. ¹⁷ My transgression is sealed up in a bag, and You cover my iniquity. ¹⁸ "But as a mountain falls and crumbles away, and as a rock is moved from its place; ¹⁹ as water wears away stones, and as torrents wash away the soil of the earth; so You destroy the hope of man. ²⁰ You prevail forever against him, and he passes on; You change his countenance and send him away. ²¹ His sons come to honor, and he does not know it; they are brought low, and he does not perceive it. ²² But his flesh will be in pain over it, and his soul will mourn over it."

TEACHING NOTES

A Study of the Life of Job

Job - Chapters 15-18

Lesson 6

"How rarely we weigh our neighbor in the same balance in which we weigh ourselves."—Thomas a Kempis. During this second round of speeches, the fire becomes hotter as the three friends focus more on proving Job wrong than on giving Job help. We find Job stating that he is giving up, yet we find him still hoping for an answer beyond Himself. Praise God that He has provided that answer as we hope in Jesus.

Observation: Read Job 15

1. Read Job 15 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God*, *Job*, and words that relate to Job's friends.

Read Job 15

1. This chapter begins with Eliphaz's second response. He first attacked Job's words. Using verses 2-6, share how Eliphaz described Job's speech.

- a. Not only was Eliphaz critical of Job's words, but his own words were also full of assumptions about Job. What were they?
- b. Although God certainly had not accused Job of restraining prayer, Eliphaz did. Explain the idea of restraining prayer and its disadvantages.
- c. Read Jeremiah 2:5-6 and comment on God's observation of Israel's lack of seeking Him.
- d. Why do you think God's people do this?

2. Job 15:7-14 expose a series of questions posed by Eliphaz to Job. Consider his question in verse 11. Eliphaz viewed his words and the words of his friends as those of God. In what ways can Christians make that same mistake today?
 - a. What are some verses in the Bible that truly represent the consolation of God to you?
 - b. What do we need to remember if we are to truly console someone as God does?
3. The remaining verses of Job 15 deal with Eliphaz's words regarding the suffering and judgment of the wicked. List a few of his statements.
 - a. Reflect upon the statement of verse 31. What are examples of futile things?

- b. Using synonyms define the word futile.
- c. In what ways does trusting in futile things lead to futility?

OBSERVATION: Read Job 16

1. Read Job 16 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God*, *Job*, and words that relate to *Job's* friends

3. The contrasting word *but* is used three times in Job 16. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 16

1. Job countered the words of his friends in Job 16. He called them miserable comforters. What are some components of miserable comfort?
2. Job told them that, *if your soul were in my soul's place*, he could have responded to them similarly (verse 4). But, according to verse 5, what did he say he would do instead?
 - a. What strengthening words do you look for in times of distress?

3. In his confusion, Job believed that God had worn him out. In his pain, Job made several observations of what he believed to be God's role in his grief. Using verses 8-14, list some of Job's expressed impressions.
 - a. What characteristics of God do you think Job did not understand or had forgotten?
Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.
4. Verses 15-20 reflect Job's pain. They also reflect statements that refute Eliphaz's accusation that Job had restrained prayer. What are those statements?
5. Notice Job's plea in verse 21. How does a man plead for his neighbor (or someone he loves)?

- a. How do the below verses encourage you to do this?

Ephesians 6:18

1 Timothy 2: 1, 5

Observation: Read Job 17

1. Read Job 17 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job*

3. The contrasting words *but* and *yet* occur three times in Job 17. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 17

1. In chapter 17, Job directed his complaint both toward earth and heaven. Consider the question in verse two ...*does not my eye dwell on their provocation?* What are some ways we let statements made by others get to us?
 - a. Read Luke 23:35-37. What was Jesus' response to provocation? (Luke 23:34)
 - b. Do you think it would be too much to ask Job to respond as Jesus did? Why or why not?
2. In verses 6-9 we see a faint glimmer in Job's hope. What two truths did he declare in verse 9?
 - a. What have you personally discovered to be the benefits of:
 - holding on (endurance)
 - choosing to be clean (choosing righteousness)

3. The chapter closes with Job's expressions of despair, once again longing for death. Still, the hope of the grave did not sit well with Job. What question did he ask in the beginning of verse 15?
 - a. What is your hope when you are hurting?
 - b. Record the words of David in Psalm 62:5.
 - c. Expectation is another word for hope. How does hoping in God change your perspective?

Observation: Read Job 18

1. Read Job 18 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job* (*you*, *your*, and *yourself*)

Read Job 18

1. Chapter 18 records Bildad's second retort. He began by rebuking Job for his low opinion of his friends. What did he say? verses 1-3

- a. Why are neither defensive nor offensive words beneficial?
2. In the remainder of the chapter, Bildad addressed the fate of the *wicked* in different ways. What did Bildad say about their:

light (verses 5-6)

steps (verses 7-10)

miserable life (verses 11-15)

destiny (verses 16-21)

- a. Although Bildad is mistakenly referring to Job as wicked, what benefit might these words have in your life if you had chosen the path of the wicked?

Review: Job 15-18

1. What lesson did you learn from:

Job 15

Job 16

Job 17

Job 18

2. In what ways had Job lost perspective?
 - a. In what ways had Job's friends lost perspective?
 - c. In what ways do these chapters encourage you to have a correct perspective of God?

But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.
Proverbs 4:18

Observation Worksheet

Job 15

¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said: ² "Should a wise man answer with empty knowledge, and fill himself with the east wind? ³ Should he reason with unprofitable talk, or by speeches with which he can do no good? ⁴ Yes, you cast off fear, and restrain prayer before God. ⁵ For your iniquity teaches your mouth, and you choose the tongue of the crafty. ⁶ Your own mouth condemns you, and not I; yes, your own lips testify against you. ⁷ "Are you the first man who was born? Or were you made before the hills? ⁸ Have you heard the counsel of God? Do you limit wisdom to yourself? ⁹ What do you know that we do not know? What do you understand that is not in us? ¹⁰ Both the gray-haired and the aged are among us, much older than your father. ¹¹ Are the consolations of God too small for you, and the word spoken gently with you? ¹² Why does your heart carry you away, and what do your eyes wink at, ¹³ that you turn your spirit against God, and let such words go out of your mouth? ¹⁴ "What is man, that he could be pure? And he who is born of a woman, that he could be righteous? ¹⁵ If God puts no trust in His saints, and the heavens are not pure in His sight, ¹⁶ how much less man, who is abominable and filthy, who drinks iniquity like water! ¹⁷ "I will tell you, hear me; what I have seen I will declare, ¹⁸ what wise men have told, not hiding anything received from their fathers, ¹⁹ to whom alone the land was given, and no alien passed among them: ²⁰ The wicked man writhes with pain all his days, and the number of years is hidden from the oppressor. ²¹ Dreadful sounds are in his ears; in prosperity the destroyer comes upon him. ²² He does not believe that he will return from darkness, for a sword is waiting for him. ²³ He wanders about for bread, saying, 'Where is it?' He knows that a day of darkness is ready at his hand. ²⁴ Trouble and anguish make him afraid; they overpower him, like a king ready for battle. ²⁵ For he stretches out his hand against God, and acts defiantly against the Almighty, ²⁶ running stubbornly against Him with his strong, embossed shield. ²⁷ "Though he has covered his face with his fatness, and made his waist heavy with fat, ²⁸ he dwells in desolate cities, in houses which no one inhabits, which are destined to become ruins. ²⁹ He will not be rich, nor will his wealth continue, nor will his possessions overspread the earth. ³⁰ He will not depart from darkness; the flame will dry out his branches, and by the breath of His mouth he will go away. ³¹ Let him not trust in futile things, deceiving himself, for futility will be his reward. ³² It will be accomplished before his time, and his branch will not be green. ³³ He will shake off his unripe grape like a vine, and cast off his

blossom like an olive tree. ³⁴ For the company of hypocrites will be barren, and fire will consume the tents of bribery. ³⁵ They conceive trouble and bring forth futility; their womb prepares deceit."

Job 16

¹ Then Job answered and said: ² "I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are you all! ³ Shall words of wind have an end? Or what provokes you that you answer? ⁴ I also could speak as you do, if your soul were in my soul's place. I could heap up words against you, and shake my head at you; ⁵ but I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the comfort of my lips would relieve your grief. ⁶ "Though I speak, my grief is not relieved; and if I remain silent, how am I eased? ⁷ But now He has worn me out; You have made desolate all my company. ⁸ You have shriveled me up, and it is a witness against me; my leanness rises up against me and bears witness to my face. ⁹ He tears me in His wrath, and hates me; He gnashes at me with His teeth; my adversary sharpens His gaze on me. ¹⁰ They gape at me with their mouth, they strike me reproachfully on the cheek, they gather together against me. ¹¹ God has delivered me to the ungodly, and turned me over to the hands of the wicked. ¹² I was at ease, but He has shattered me; He also has taken me by my neck, and shaken me to pieces; He has set me up for His target, ¹³ His archers surround me. He pierces my heart and does not pity; He pours out my gall on the ground. ¹⁴ He breaks me with wound upon wound; He runs at me like a warrior. ¹⁵ "I have sewn sackcloth over my skin, and laid my head in the dust. ¹⁶ My face is flushed from weeping, and on my eyelids is the shadow of death; ¹⁷ although no violence is in my hands, and my prayer is pure. ¹⁸ "O earth, do not cover my blood, and let my cry have no resting place! ¹⁹ Surely even now my witness is in heaven, and my evidence is on high. ²⁰ My friends scorn me; my eyes pour out tears to God. ²¹ Oh, that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleads for his neighbor! ²² For when a few years are finished, I shall go the way of no return.

Job 17

¹ "My spirit is broken, my days are extinguished, the grave is ready for me. ² Are not mockers with me? And does not my eye dwell on their provocation? ³ "Now put down a pledge for me with Yourself. Who is he who will shake hands with me? ⁴ For You have hidden their heart from understanding; therefore You will not exalt them. ⁵ He who speaks flattery to his friends,

even the eyes of his children will fail. ⁶ "But He has made me a byword of the people, and I have become one in whose face men spit. ⁷ My eye has also grown dim because of sorrow, and all my members are like shadows. ⁸ Upright men are astonished at this, and the innocent stirs himself up against the hypocrite. ⁹ Yet the righteous will hold to his way, and he who has clean hands will be stronger and stronger. ¹⁰ "But please, come back again, all of you, for I shall not find one wise man among you. ¹¹ My days are past, my purposes are broken off, even the thoughts of my heart. ¹² They change the night into day; 'The light is near,' they say, in the face of darkness. ¹³ If I wait for the grave as my house, if I make my bed in the darkness, ¹⁴ if I say to corruption, 'You are my father,' and to the worm, 'You are my mother and my sister,' ¹⁵ where then is my hope? As for my hope, who can see it? ¹⁶ Will they go down to the gates of Sheol? Shall we have rest together in the dust?"

Job 18

¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said: ² "How long till you put an end to words? Gain understanding, and afterward we will speak. ³ Why are we counted as beasts, and regarded as stupid in your sight? ⁴ You who tear yourself in anger, shall the earth be forsaken for you? Or shall the rock be removed from its place? ⁵ "The light of the wicked indeed goes out, and the flame of his fire does not shine. ⁶ The light is dark in his tent, and his lamp beside him is put out. ⁷ The steps of his strength are shortened, and his own counsel casts him down. ⁸ For he is cast into a net by his own feet, and he walks into a snare. ⁹ The net takes him by the heel, and a snare lays hold of him. ¹⁰ A noose is hidden for him on the ground, and a trap for him in the road. ¹¹ Terrors frighten him on every side, and drive him to his feet. ¹² His strength is starved, and destruction is ready at his side. ¹³ It devours patches of his skin; the firstborn of death devours his limbs. ¹⁴ He is uprooted from the shelter of his tent, and they parade him before the king of terrors. ¹⁵ They dwell in his tent who are none of his; brimstone is scattered on his dwelling. ¹⁶ His roots are dried out below, and his branch withers above. ¹⁷ The memory of him perishes from the earth, and he has no name among the renowned. ¹⁸ He is driven from light into darkness, and chased out of the world. ¹⁹ He has neither son nor posterity among his people, nor any remaining in his dwellings. ²⁰ Those in the west are astonished at his day, as those in the east are frightened. ²¹ Surely such are the dwellings of the wicked, and this is the place of him who does not know God."

TEACHING NOTES

A Study of the Life of Job

Job - Chapters 19-21

Lesson 7

Our words either hurt or heal. In these chapters, Job described the words of his friends as *tormenting, wronging, scheming, and falsehoods*. He pleaded with them to *listen carefully, to bear with him, to look at him, to put their hand over their mouth*. The prosperity of the *wicked* is examined in these chapters, concluding that we must trust in the *wisdom of God*. May your study bring you closer to being a *comforter* whose words can best be described as trusting in God's *wisdom* when life seems so unfair.

Observation: Read Job 19

1. Read Job 19 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Jesus, and Job*.

Key Words: *God, Job, Redeemer (Jesus), and words that relate to Job's friends*

3. The contrasting word *but* is used in verse 16. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 19

1. Job again responded to the accusations made against him by his friends. Using verses 2-3, record your thoughts of Job's impression of their *words*.

a. Reflect upon a recent conversation you have had with someone who is in distress. How do you think they would describe your words?

b. What do the following verses teach us about our words?

Psalm 19:14

Proverbs 10:19

Proverbs 16:24

Ephesians 4:29

Challenge: Share other verses that relate to the use of our words.

c. What do you do to:

guard your words?

speak words that edify?

2. In Job 3-6, Job maintained his innocence, claiming that if the distress he was suffering was because of wrongdoing on his part, then God had made a mistake. “Listen” to Job’s frustration in Job 19:7-13. What do you “hear” him saying?

a. Job spoke many misperceptions about God in these verses. Record the misperceptions spoken by Job that is countered by each of the following verses:

Deuteronomy 32:4 *He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.* Job's contrary statement:

John 8:12 *Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life."* Job's contrary statement:

Psalm 31:24 *Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD.* Job's contrary statement:

3. Job 19:13-19 address Job's loneliness. List a few of his statements that reflect this.

a. Although God has ordained relationships in our lives, in what ways does God meet your needs for companionship that no person can meet?

4. Job turns to his friends in verses 21-22. What did he ask from them?

a. Record synonyms for the word pity.

5. Although Job was frustrated and, in much distress, he makes an incredible pronouncement in verses 25-26. What did he say?

a. In your own words, explain what Job was proclaiming.

b. How does knowing these truths help you in times of distress?

Observation: Read Job 20

1. Read Job 20 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Job, and Zophar*.

Key Words: *God, Job, Zophar*, and words that relate to the *wicked/hypocrite*

3. The contrasting words *but* and *yet* are used five times in Job 20. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 20

1. The words of Zophar in chapter 20 reflect his second attempt to answer Job. Reflect upon the introductory words of his first speech in Job 11:2-3. Describe the tone of his words.
 - a. Now, consider his words as recorded in Job 20:2-3. What changes or similarities do you see?
 - b. How can we see that Zophar had still not understood Job?
2. Zophar proceeded to exhort Job by indirectly referring to him as wicked and a hypocrite. Therefore, the remainder of the chapter is an indirect reminder of the fate of the wicked. Scan verses 4-11 and choose some phrases that describe the short triumph of the wicked man.

- a. Most of us may not describe ourselves as wicked since we became believers. What lesson is there for us in these warnings?
3. Zophar described the misery of the wicked man in Job 20:12-19. Read through these verses and describe this misery in your own words.

- a. How would you feel if you were being accused of being wicked as Job was?

- b. As believers, what are we to do according to the following verses?

Matthew 5:44

Romans 14:14, 17-18

4. According to verse 19, what was Zophar accusing Job of doing regarding the poor?

- a. Record Job's defense in Job 31:16,19, and 22.

- b. What does James 1:27 say about helping those in need?

- c. Why is helping the poor and needy a sign of pure and undefiled religion?

5. Zophar described the *portion from God for a wicked man* in Job 20:20-29. He used words that not only described material lack, but also emotional lack. Notice the words of verse 20. What will he not know?

- a. Record the truth of Isaiah 57:21.
- b. Describe the unrest or lack of quietness in the heart when a person chooses sin.
- c. The opposite of lack of quietness in the heart is peace. Describe the peace of God according to John 14:27 and Philippians 4:7.

6. According to Job 20:21, what will not last in the life of the wicked?

- a. The wicked often have a deceived sense of well-being. What is different about the sense of well-being that God gives?

Observation: Read Job 21

1. Read Job 21 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God*, *Job*, words that relate to *Zophar*, and words that relate to the *wicked*

3. The contrasting word *yet* occurs two times in Job 21. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 21

1. As Job *answers* Zophar's accusations, what does he ask of him? verses 2-6
 - a. Notice Job's request, *look at me and be astonished* (verse 5). What do you think they would have seen if they had stopped and really *looked* at Job's condition?
2. In Job 21:7-13a, Job reminded Zophar that the wicked do prosper temporarily. The question then could be, since the wicked prosper, cannot the righteous suffer? What temporary prosperity does the wicked enjoy?
3. Using verses 14-15, record the three irreverent statements of the wicked.
 - a. How would you answer those questions?
4. God is all wise. Yet, the wicked sometimes prosper and the righteous sometimes suffer. What question does Job ask in verse 22?
 - a. This is an important question, which God Himself will answer in many ways at the end of the book. God reminds His people of this truth by posing questions Himself. Using the book of Isaiah, record those questions.

Isaiah 40:13

Isaiah 40:14

Isaiah 45:9

- b. What have you learned about the wisdom of God?
5. Job reminded Zophar in verse 27, *I know your thoughts*. Job knew Zophar's words regarding the wicked were intended for Job. What did Job say about Zophar's schemes?
6. Record Job's challenge to Zophar in verse 34.
 - a. Zophar's words were falsehoods. Job uses the word *comfort* and *comforters* seven times in this book. Job wanted comfort from his friends but found none. Describe the comfort you would like when you are in distress.

Review: Job 19-21

1. What lesson did you learn from:

Job 19

Job 20

Job 21

2. What did you learn about the consequences of the wicked that can be applied to the rebellious choices of a believer?
 - a. While living a righteous life may not give us quantity of life (more days), how can it increase the quality of our life?
4. While it often seems as if the wicked prosper, what do we need to keep in mind?

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer. - Psalm 19:14

Observation Worksheet

Job 19

¹ Then Job answered and said: ² "How long will you torment my soul, and break me in pieces with words? ³ These ten times you have reproached me; you are not ashamed that you have wronged me. ⁴ And if indeed I have erred, my error remains with me. ⁵ If indeed you exalt yourselves against me, and plead my disgrace against me, ⁶ know then that God has wronged me, and has surrounded me with His net. ⁷ "If I cry out concerning wrong, I am not heard. If I cry aloud, there is no justice. ⁸ He has fenced up my way, so that I cannot pass; and He has set darkness in my paths. ⁹ He has stripped me of my glory, and taken the crown from my head. ¹⁰ He breaks me down on every side, and I am gone; my hope He has uprooted like a tree. ¹¹ He has also kindled His wrath against me, and He counts me as one of His enemies. ¹² His troops come together and build up their road against me; they encamp all around my tent. ¹³ "He has removed my brothers far from me, and my acquaintances are completely estranged from me. ¹⁴ My relatives have failed, and my close friends have forgotten me. ¹⁵ Those who dwell in my house, and my maidservants, count me as a stranger; I am an alien in their sight. ¹⁶ I call my servant, but he gives no answer; I beg him with my mouth. ¹⁷ My breath is offensive to my wife, and I am repulsive to the children of my own body. ¹⁸ Even young children despise me; I arise, and they speak against me. ¹⁹ All my close friends abhor me, and those whom I love have turned against me. ²⁰ My bone clings to my skin and to my flesh, and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth. ²¹ "Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has struck me! ²² Why do you persecute me as God does, and are not satisfied with my flesh? ²³ "Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book! ²⁴ That they were engraved on a rock with an iron pen and lead, forever! ²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; ²⁶ and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, ²⁷ whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me! ²⁸ If you should say, 'How shall we persecute him?'-- since the root of the matter is found in me, ²⁹ be afraid of the sword for yourselves; for wrath brings the punishment of the sword, that you may know there is a judgment."

Job 20

¹ Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said: ² "Therefore my anxious thoughts make me answer, because of the turmoil within me. ³ I have heard the rebuke that reproaches me, and the spirit of my understanding causes me to answer. ⁴ "Do you not know this of old, since man was placed on earth, ⁵ that the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment? ⁶ Though his haughtiness mounts up to the heavens, and his head reaches to the clouds, ⁷ yet he will perish forever like his own refuse; those who have seen him will say, 'Where is he?' ⁸ He will fly away like a dream, and not be found; yes, he will be chased away like a vision of the night. ⁹ The eye that saw him will see him no more, nor will his place behold him anymore. ¹⁰ His children will seek the favor of the poor, and his hands will restore his wealth. ¹¹ His bones

are full of his youthful vigor, but it will lie down with him in the dust. ¹² "Though evil is sweet in his mouth, and he hides it under his tongue, ¹³ though he spares it and does not forsake it, but still keeps it in his mouth, ¹⁴ yet his food in his stomach turns sour; it becomes cobra venom within him. ¹⁵ He swallows down riches and vomits them up again; God casts them out of his belly. ¹⁶ He will suck the poison of cobras; the viper's tongue will slay him. ¹⁷ He will not see the streams, the rivers flowing with honey and cream. ¹⁸ He will restore that for which he labored, and will not swallow it down; from the proceeds of business he will get no enjoyment. ¹⁹ For he has oppressed and forsaken the poor, he has violently seized a house which he did not build. ²⁰ "Because he knows no quietness in his heart, he will not save anything he desires. ²¹ Nothing is left for him to eat; therefore his well-being will not last. ²² In his self-sufficiency he will be in distress; every hand of misery will come against him. ²³ When he is about to fill his stomach, God will cast on him the fury of His wrath, and will rain it on him while he is eating. ²⁴ He will flee from the iron weapon; a bronze bow will pierce him through. ²⁵ It is drawn, and comes out of the body; yes, the glittering point comes out of his gall. Terrors come upon him; ²⁶ total darkness is reserved for his treasures. An unfanned fire will consume him; it shall go ill with him who is left in his tent. ²⁷ The heavens will reveal his iniquity, and the earth will rise up against him. ²⁸ The increase of his house will depart, and his goods will flow away in the day of His wrath. ²⁹ This is the portion from God for a wicked man, the heritage appointed to him by God."

Job 21

¹ Then Job answered and said: ² "Listen carefully to my speech, and let this be your consolation. ³ Bear with me that I may speak, and after I have spoken, keep mocking. ⁴ "As for me, is my complaint against man? And if it were, why should I not be impatient? ⁵ Look at me and be astonished; put your hand over your mouth. ⁶ Even when I remember I am terrified, and trembling takes hold of my flesh. ⁷ Why do the wicked live and become old, yes, become mighty in power? ⁸ Their descendants are established with them in their sight, and their offspring before their eyes. ⁹ Their houses are safe from fear, neither is the rod of God upon them. ¹⁰ Their bull breeds without failure; their cow calves without miscarriage. ¹¹ They send forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance. ¹² They sing to the tambourine and harp, and rejoice to the sound of the flute. ¹³ They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave. ¹⁴ Yet they say to God, 'Depart from us, for we do not desire the knowledge of Your ways. ¹⁵ Who is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? And what profit do we have if we pray to Him?' ¹⁶ Indeed their prosperity is not in their hand; the counsel of the wicked is far from me. ¹⁷ "How often is the lamp of the wicked put out? How often does their destruction come upon them, the sorrows God distributes in His anger? ¹⁸ They are like straw before the wind, and like chaff that a storm carries away. ¹⁹ They say, 'God lays up one's iniquity for his children'; let Him recompense him, that he may know it. ²⁰ Let his eyes see his destruction, and let him drink of the wrath of the Almighty. ²¹ For what does he care about his household after him, when the number of his months is cut in half? ²² "Can anyone teach God knowledge, since He judges those on high? ²³ One dies in his full strength, being wholly at ease and secure; ²⁴ his pails are full of milk, and the marrow of his bones is moist. ²⁵ Another man dies in the bitterness of his soul, never having

eaten with pleasure. ²⁶ They lie down alike in the dust, and worms cover them. ²⁷ "Look, I know your thoughts, and the schemes with which you would wrong me. ²⁸ For you say, 'Where is the house of the prince? And where is the tent, the dwelling place of the wicked?' ²⁹ Have you not asked those who travel the road? And do you not know their signs? ³⁰ For the wicked are reserved for the day of doom; they shall be brought out on the day of wrath. ³¹ Who condemns his way to his face? And who repays him for what he has done? ³² Yet he shall be brought to the grave, and a vigil kept over the tomb. ³³ The clods of the valley shall be sweet to him; everyone shall follow him, as countless have gone before him. ³⁴ How then can you comfort me with empty words, since falsehood remains in your answers?"

TEACHING NOTES

A Study of the Life of Job

Job - Chapters 22-27

Lesson 8

These chapters contain the final discourses of Job's three friends and Job's attempt to convince them that he is innocent. The words of his friends have taken on no change or indication of them hearing Job's plea to them to hear him. Thus, although they used many words and much reasoning, their attempts to comfort Job have failed miserably. Interspersed in the dialogue are true acknowledgements of the wonder of God. Don't miss them.

Observation: Read Job 22

1. Read Job 22 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God, Job, and Eliphaz*

3. The contrasting words *yet* and *but* occur three times in Job 22. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 22

1. Eliphaz began his third discourse with a question to Job: Can a man be profitable to God? Using the following verses, list what God takes pleasure in.

1 Chronicles 29:17

Psalm 147:11

Proverbs 11:20

Proverbs 12:22

- a. God desires that we know our value to Him, yet He despairs pride. Describe what a healthy perspective of our relationship with the Lord should be like.
2. Because Eliphaz could not understand the reason for Job's distress to be anything but correction from God, what were some of the false accusations Eliphaz assumed about Job? verses 4-11
 - a. What are some things we need to remind ourselves to consider when we begin to make assumptions about others?
3. In verses 12-20 Eliphaz spoke of the wonder of God and contrasted the righteous with the wicked. What contrast did he observe?
 - a. Notice the phrase in verse 18, the counsel of the wicked is far from me. Describe the counsel of the wicked?

- b. Why do you think that even Christians fall prey to heeding the counsel of the wicked?
4. Job 22 closes with Eliphaz's plea to Job to get right with God. List a few of the benefits he presented.
 - a. What are some of the benefits you have personally discovered?

Observation: Read Job 23

1. Read Job 23 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job*

3. The contrasting word *but* is used five times in Job 23. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 23

1. Job again longs to take his complaint before God. Although there is so much that Job does not know or understand, using verses 1-7, list the truths he does know.

2. Consider Job's dilemma as he expressed it in verses 8-9. Saints throughout the ages have shared Job's sentiments in times of trouble. Although it seems at times that God has hidden His face, what did Isaiah declare in Isaiah 8:17?
3. Job 23:10 begins with the contrasting word *but*. Amid doubt, in what is Job confident? Use verses 10-12.
4. In much of the closing verses of Job 23, Job proclaims God's sovereignty. Contemplate on the phrase from verse 14, *For He performs what is appointed for me*. Using Jeremiah 29:11, why can we rest in knowing that God has appointed good things for us?

Observation: Read Job 24

1. Read Job 24 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God*, *Job*, and words that relate to the *those* Job referred to beginning in verse 1.

3. The contrasting words *yet* and *but* occur five times in Job 24. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 24

1. Job described the conduct of the wicked in the first 17 verses of Job 24. Record the contrasting phrase at the end of verse 12.

a. As Solomon reflected upon life in Ecclesiastes, what did he observe in:

Ecclesiastes 8:11

Ecclesiastes 8:12

b. What comfort do you derive from his observations?

2. Job expressed his sense of rightness in verses 17-20, repeating the word *should*. List two of the consequences that Job feels should be experienced by the wicked.

3. Verse 22 again begins with a contrast which moves into a description of God. Using verses 22-24, what did Job proclaim about God?

4. Although the wicked seemingly prosper, what did Job conclude about them in verse 24?

a. Reflect upon people you have known about throughout history (or maybe just in your lifetime). What are your thoughts concerning those whose lives had real value and those who did not?

b. What are your thoughts about choices that result in temporary gain or satisfaction?

Observation: Read Job 25

1. Read Job 25 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to God.

Key Words: *God* and *Bildad*

Read Job 25

1. Bildad's final speech is only 6 verses long. What two questions did he ask in verse 4?

- a. These questions have previously been asked. Record them, using the following verses.

Job 4:17-18

Job 14:4

Job 15:14

- b. Explain why the answer to these questions is "no".

Observation: Read Job 26

1. Read Job 26 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God*.

Key Words: *God, Spirit, Job*, and words that relate to the *Job's friends*

3. The contrasting words *yet* and *but* occur three times in Job 26. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 26

1. In the first four verses of chapter 26, Job challenged his friends regarding helping others. Who did Job say should be helped, saved, or counseled?
 - a. In what types of circumstances might these people find themselves?
 - b. Record the instruction of Isaiah 35:3.
 - c. What are some practical ways we can do this?
- d. In what ways had Job's friends failed to apply this verse in their attempts to comfort Job?

2. Job moved into an acknowledgment of God's power in contrast to the abilities of his friends. Write the words of Isaiah 40:14.
 - a. Record one proclamation that Job made about God in Job 26:6-14 and share your thoughts about it.

Observation: Read Job 27

1. Read Job 27 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God*, *Job*, and words that relate to the *wicked/hypocrite*

3. The contrasting word *but* occurs twice in Job 27. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 27

1. Job 27:2 begins with the words as God lives. What did Job claim he would not do? (verses 4-6)
2. Job's friends accused him of being a hypocrite. In what did Job state that the hypocrite could not hope?

- a. Record the words of Job 20:5.
- b. In contrast, what is the hope of the righteous? Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.
3. Job closed the chapter acknowledging his agreement with his friends that the wicked will not prosper. If you were one of his friends and understood that Job was in agreement with your assessment of the wicked, what thoughts might you have about Job?

Review: Job 22-27

1. We see that Job is struggling in his great suffering; he is perplexed about God and even has some confusion about God's interaction in his life. Is there anything that perplexes you about God? Do you question what God is doing when you are suffering? Explain.
 - a. What should we do about this?
2. After studying these chapters, what are your thoughts about:
God

Job

Job's friends

Hypocrites

*Righteous are You, O LORD, when I plead with You;
Yet let me talk with You about Your judgments.*

*Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are
those happy who deal so treacherously - Jeremiah 12:1*

Observation Worksheet

Job 22

¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said: ² "Can a man be profitable to God, though he who is wise may be profitable to himself? ³ Is it any pleasure to the Almighty that you are righteous? Or is it gain to Him that you make your ways blameless? ⁴ Is it because of your fear of Him that He corrects you, and enters into judgment with you? ⁵ Is not your wickedness great, and your iniquity without end? ⁶ For you have taken pledges from your brother for no reason, and stripped the naked of their clothing. ⁷ You have not given the weary water to drink, and you have withheld bread from the hungry. ⁸ But the mighty man possessed the land, and the honorable man dwelt in it. ⁹ You have sent widows away empty, and the strength of the fatherless was crushed. ¹⁰ Therefore snares are all around you, and sudden fear troubles you, ¹¹ or darkness so that you cannot see; and an abundance of water covers you. ¹² "Is not God in the height of heaven? And see the highest stars, how lofty they are! ¹³ And you say, 'What does God know? Can He judge through the deep darkness? ¹⁴ Thick clouds cover Him, so that He cannot see, and He walks above the circle of heaven.' ¹⁵ Will you keep to the old way which wicked men have trod, ¹⁶ who were cut down before their time, whose foundations were swept away by a flood? ¹⁷ They said to God, 'Depart from us! What can the Almighty do to them?' ¹⁸ Yet He filled their houses with good things; but the counsel of the wicked is far from me. ¹⁹ "The righteous see it and are glad, and the innocent laugh at them: ²⁰ 'Surely our adversaries are cut down, and the fire consumes their remnant.' ²¹ "Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you. ²² Receive, please, instruction from His mouth, and lay up His words in your heart. ²³ If you return to the Almighty, you will be built up; you will remove iniquity far from your tents. ²⁴ Then you will lay your gold in the dust, and the gold of Ophir among the stones of the brooks. ²⁵ Yes, the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver; ²⁶ for then you will have your delight in the Almighty, and lift up your face to God. ²⁷ You will make your prayer to Him, He will hear you, and you will pay your vows. ²⁸ You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you; so light will shine on your ways. ²⁹ When they cast you down, and you say, 'Exaltation will come!' Then He will save the humble person. ³⁰ He will even deliver one who is not innocent; yes, he will be delivered by the purity of your hands."

Job 23

¹ Then Job answered and said: ² "Even today my complaint is bitter; my hand is listless because of my groaning. ³ Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, that I might come to His seat! ⁴ I would present my case before Him, and fill my mouth with arguments. ⁵ I would know the words which He would answer me, and understand what He would say to me. ⁶ Would He contend with me in His great power? No! But He would take note of me. ⁷ There the upright could reason with Him, and I would be delivered forever from my Judge. ⁸ "Look, I go forward, but He is not there, and backward, but I cannot perceive Him; ⁹ when He works on the left hand, I cannot behold Him; when He turns to the right hand, I cannot see Him. ¹⁰ But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold. ¹¹ My foot has held fast to

His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside. ¹² I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. ¹³ "But He is unique, and who can make Him change? And whatever His soul desires, that He does. ¹⁴ For He performs what is appointed for me, and many such things are with Him. ¹⁵ Therefore I am terrified at His presence; when I consider this, I am afraid of Him. ¹⁶ For God made my heart weak, and the Almighty terrifies me; ¹⁷ because I was not cut off from the presence of darkness, and He did not hide deep darkness from my face.

Job 24

¹ "Since times are not hidden from the Almighty, why do those who know Him see not His days? ² Some remove landmarks; they seize flocks violently and feed on them; ³ they drive away the donkey of the fatherless; they take the widow's ox as a pledge. ⁴ They push the needy off the road; all the poor of the land are forced to hide. ⁵ Indeed, like wild donkeys in the desert, they go out to their work, searching for food. The wilderness yields food for them and for their children. ⁶ They gather their fodder in the field and glean in the vineyard of the wicked. ⁷ They spend the night naked, without clothing, and have no covering in the cold. ⁸ They are wet with the showers of the mountains, and huddle around the rock for want of shelter. ⁹ Some snatch the fatherless from the breast, and take a pledge from the poor. ¹⁰ They cause the poor to go naked, without clothing; and they take away the sheaves from the hungry. ¹¹ They press out oil within their walls, and tread winepresses, yet suffer thirst. ¹² The dying groan in the city, and the souls of the wounded cry out; yet God does not charge them with wrong. ¹³ "There are those who rebel against the light; they do not know its ways nor abide in its paths. ¹⁴ The murderer rises with the light; he kills the poor and needy; and in the night he is like a thief. ¹⁵ The eye of the adulterer waits for the twilight, saying, 'No eye will see me'; and he disguises his face. ¹⁶ In the dark they break into houses which they marked for themselves in the daytime; they do not know the light. ¹⁷ For the morning is the same to them as the shadow of death; if someone recognizes them, they are in the terrors of the shadow of death. ¹⁸ "They should be swift on the face of the waters, their portion should be cursed in the earth, so that no one would turn into the way of their vineyards. ¹⁹ As drought and heat consume the snow waters, so the grave consumes those who have sinned. ²⁰ The womb should forget him, the worm should feed sweetly on him; he should be remembered no more, and wickedness should be broken like a tree. ²¹ For he preys on the barren who do not bear, and does no good for the widow. ²² "But God draws the mighty away with His power; He rises up, but no man is sure of life. ²³ He gives them security, and they rely on it; yet His eyes are on their ways. ²⁴ They are exalted for a little while, then they are gone. They are brought low; they are taken out of the way like all others; they dry out like the heads of grain. ²⁵ "Now if it is not so, who will prove me a liar, and make my speech worth nothing?"

Job 25

¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said: ² "Dominion and fear belong to Him; He makes peace in His high places. ³ Is there any number to His armies? Upon whom does His light not rise? ⁴ How then can man be righteous before God? Or how can he be pure who is born of a

woman? ⁵ If even the moon does not shine, and the stars are not pure in His sight, ⁶ how much less man, who is a maggot, and a son of man, who is a worm?"

Job 26

¹ But Job answered and said: ² "How have you helped him who is without power? How have you saved the arm that has no strength? ³ How have you counseled one who has no wisdom? And how have you declared sound advice to many? ⁴ To whom have you uttered words? And whose spirit came from you? ⁵ "The dead tremble, those under the waters and those inhabiting them.

⁶ Sheol is naked before Him, and Destruction has no covering. ⁷ He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing. ⁸ He binds up the water in His thick clouds, yet the clouds are not broken under it. ⁹ He covers the face of His throne, and spreads His cloud over it.

¹⁰ He drew a circular horizon on the face of the waters, at the boundary of light and darkness.

¹¹ The pillars of heaven tremble, and are astonished at His rebuke. ¹² He stirs up the sea with His power, and by His understanding He breaks up the storm. ¹³ By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent. ¹⁴ Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways, and how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?"

Job 27

¹ Moreover Job continued his discourse, and said: ² "As God lives, who has taken away my justice, and the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter, ³ as long as my breath is in me, and the breath of God in my nostrils, ⁴ my lips will not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit. ⁵ Far be it from me that I should say you are right; till I die I will not put away my integrity from me.

⁶ My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go; my heart shall not reproach me as long as I live. ⁷ "May my enemy be like the wicked, and he who rises up against me like the unrighteous.

⁸ For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he may gain much, if God takes away his life?

⁹ Will God hear his cry when trouble comes upon him? ¹⁰ Will he delight himself in the Almighty? Will he always call on God? ¹¹ "I will teach you about the hand of God; what is with the Almighty I will not conceal. ¹² Surely all of you have seen it; why then do you behave with complete nonsense?

¹³ "This is the portion of a wicked man with God, and the heritage of oppressors, received from the Almighty: ¹⁴ If his children are multiplied, it is for the sword; and his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread. ¹⁵ Those who survive him shall be buried in death, and their widows shall not weep, ¹⁶ though he heaps up silver like dust, and piles up clothing like clay —

¹⁷ he may pile it up, but the just will wear it, and the innocent will divide the silver. ¹⁸ He builds his house like a moth, like a booth which a watchman makes. ¹⁹ The rich man will lie down, but not be gathered up; he opens his eyes, and he is no more. ²⁰ Terrors overtake him like a flood; a tempest steals him away in the night. ²¹ The east wind carries him away, and he is gone; it sweeps him out of his place.

²² It hurls against him and does not spare; he flees desperately from its power. ²³ Men shall clap their hands at him, and shall hiss him out of his place.

TEACHING NOTES

A Study of the Life of Job

Job - Chapters 28-31

Lesson 9

These chapters reflect Job's final discourse. In them we see his search for *wisdom and understanding*; we see his longing for the joys and honor of his past life; we see his lamenting of his losses; we see his desire to be declared innocent. At this point Job had no idea that God would soon appear and reveal Himself. Oh, how like Job we can often be - so stuck in the present, that we do not allow ourselves to consider that God just might not be done with us and His good purposes in the trial we are facing.

Observation: Read Job 28

1. Read Job 28 using the Observation Worksheet. After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and man.

Key Words: *God, man, wisdom/understanding* (and all words that relate to them; i.e. it or its)

3. The contrasting word *but* is used in twice in Job 28. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 28

1. Scan Job 28 and record the questions Job asked about wisdom and understanding. (verses 12,20)
2. In Job 28, Job provided 3 answers to his questions:

Wisdom cannot be mined (verses 1-11) According to these verses, what is man capable of finding?

- a. Consider all the work man puts into finding earthly treasures. He often applies the same thinking regarding wisdom – it is obtainable through hard work or even studying. How have you discovered any kind of work to be futile in obtaining wisdom?
- b. Compare the value of material wealth to wisdom.

Wisdom cannot be bought (verses 12-19). *The deep says, 'It is not in me'; and the sea says, 'It is not with me'.* Where are some places man looks to find wisdom and understanding?

- a. Scan the chapter and record the references that state the value of wisdom and understanding.
- b. Why do you think wisdom and understanding are so valuable?

Wisdom comes from God (verses 20-28). From whom or what is wisdom hidden?

- a. If wisdom is hidden from the eyes of all living, according to 1 Corinthians 2:10-12 how can we have wisdom?
- b. According to Job 28:27, God saw wisdom. What other three things did God do with wisdom?
- c. Write the words of Job 28:28.
- d. Read Psalm 111:10, Proverbs 1:7, and Proverbs 9:10; summarize their message in your own words.

3. Given the answers from the question above, how would you answer Job's question, *Where can wisdom be found?* (verse 12, 20)

Observation: Read Job 29

1. Read Job 29 using the Observation Worksheet. After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job*

Read Job 29

1. Job 29 records Job's reflections of his life before the calamities struck. He first remembers his relationship with the Lord. Using verses 1-6, what did Job miss?

- a. Consider the benefits Job had experienced that he felt were gone. Notice the phrase in verse 3: *and when by His light I walked through darkness*. Job wrote that while he was in darkness. Why do we sometimes feel like we will not see light again, when life seems dark?
- b. In what ways do the following verses encourage you when you feel like it is dark all around you?

Psalm 18:28

Psalm 27:1

Psalm 84:11

John 8:12

2. Job 29:7-11 and 21-25 record Job's remembrance of his relationship with others before the calamities struck. What were some of the statements Job made?

- a. Job enjoyed the respect of many people. Yet this respect was not a result of Job's ambition, popularity, or self-interest. Using verses 12-18, list some of the deeds Job did that enjoined the respect of others.

- b. What are the qualities or actions of people you respect?
3. Before the calamities, Job thought he would die in prosperity and peace (verses 18-20). Life had surely taken a sudden turn for Job. Yet, Job was lamenting his life as if it were now over. What is wrong with that perspective?
4. Job was a great example of how a wealthy and respected man should use his resources and live his life. Share one thing about Job's life, as recorded in this chapter, that challenged you.
5. Job 29 closes with Job's statement that he was once one who comforts mourners. In light of Job's experience, what do you think he thought of the comfort of his friends?

Observation: Read Job 30

1. Read Job 30 using the Observation Worksheet. After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Job, and the men that mock at Job*.

Key Words: *God, Job, and words that relate to the men that mock at Job.*

3. The contrasting word *but* occurs five times in Job 30. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 30

1. Job 30 begins with the contrasting words, *But now*, as Job turned from his past life to his present life. Job reflected upon the low character of those who mocked him. What did he say about them in verses 1-8?

2. What did Job call himself in verse 9?
 - a. What is the error of allowing man to determine our status or value?

3. The mocking continued in verses 10-15. Contemplate the place Job was in. What are your thoughts?
 - a. Using synonyms, define the word *mock*.
 - b. What are some antonyms of the word *mock*?

4. Hebrews 12:3 calls us to *consider* Jesus. What does this verse say?
 - a. What *mockings* was Jesus exposed to?
 - b. How does it help you to consider Jesus when people speak ill of you?

5. In spite of feeling forsaken, unheard, and targeted by God, Job continued to cry out to Him (verse 20). Why do you think Job persisted in this way to seek God's help and intervention?

Observation: Read Job 31

1. Read Job 31 using the Observation Worksheet. After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job*

2. The contrasting word *but* occurs twice in Job 31. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 31

1. Job 31 is occupied with Job's claim of innocence. He was not guilty of lust (verses 1-4). According to verse 1, what did Job say he had done?
 - a. In practical terms, what does it mean to make a covenant with your eyes?
 - b. How does it help to understand that lustng after/desiring the wrong person is not God's allotment or choice for you?

2. Scanning through the chapter, what other sins did Job claim to be innocent of?
 - a. What are some statements Job made about those sins?
 - b. What are some of the punishments Job called upon himself, if he was found guilty of committing those sins?
3. Consider your own life. Even if it is as blameless as Job's, there are still many sins you have committed. What are your thoughts as you consider the fact that you do not have to prove your righteousness, but rather lean on the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus shed for you on the cross?

Review: Job 28-31

1. In chapter 29 Job describes many of the blessings and good things from his past. Reflect on your life and record some the blessings from your past.
 - a. Is this helpful to do? Explain.
2. Does suffering affect our outlook on the future and if so, how?
3. List one important truth you learned from:

Job 28

Job 29

Job 30

Job 31

... The words of Job are ended. - Job 31:40

Observation Worksheet

Job 28

¹"Surely there is a mine for silver, and a place where gold is refined. ²Iron is taken from the earth, and copper is smelted from ore. ³Man puts an end to darkness, and searches every recess for ore in the darkness and the shadow of death. ⁴He breaks open a shaft away from people; in places forgotten by feet they hang far away from men; they swing to and fro. ⁵As for the earth, from it comes bread, but underneath it is turned up as by fire; ⁶its stones are the source of sapphires, and it contains gold dust. ⁷That path no bird knows, nor has the falcon's eye seen it. ⁸The proud lions have not trodden it, nor has the fierce lion passed over it. ⁹He puts his hand on the flint; he overturns the mountains at the roots. ¹⁰He cuts out channels in the rocks, and his eye sees every precious thing. ¹¹He dams up the streams from trickling; what is hidden he brings forth to light. ¹²"But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? ¹³Man does not know its value, nor is it found in the land of the living. ¹⁴The deep says, 'It is not in me'; and the sea says, 'It is not with me.' ¹⁵It cannot be purchased for gold, nor can silver be weighed for its price. ¹⁶It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, in precious onyx or sapphire. ¹⁷Neither gold nor crystal can equal it, nor can it be exchanged for jewelry of fine gold. ¹⁸No mention shall be made of coral or quartz, for the price of wisdom is above rubies. ¹⁹The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, nor can it be valued in pure gold. ²⁰"From where then does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding? ²¹It is hidden from the eyes of all living, and concealed from the birds of the air. ²²Destruction and Death say, 'We have heard a report about it with our ears.' ²³God understands its way, and He knows its place. ²⁴For He looks to the ends of the earth, and sees under the whole heavens, ²⁵to establish a weight for the wind, and apportion the waters by measure. ²⁶When He made a law for the rain, and a path for the thunderbolt, ²⁷then He saw wisdom and declared it; He prepared it, indeed, He searched it out. ²⁸And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding!'"

Job 29

¹Job further continued his discourse, and said: ²"Oh, that I were as in months past, as in the days when God watched over me; ³when His lamp shone upon my head, and when by His light I walked through darkness; ⁴just as I was in the days of my prime, when the friendly counsel of God was over my tent; ⁵when the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were around me; ⁶when my steps were bathed with cream, and the rock poured out rivers of oil for me! ⁷"When I went out to the gate by the city, when I took my seat in the open square, ⁸the young men saw me and hid, and the aged arose and stood; ⁹the princes refrained from talking, and put their hand on their mouth; ¹⁰the voice of nobles was hushed, and their tongue stuck to the roof of their mouth. ¹¹When the ear heard, then it blessed me, and when the eye saw, then it approved me; ¹²because I delivered the poor who cried out, the fatherless and the one who had no helper. ¹³The blessing of a perishing man came upon me, and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. ¹⁴I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban. ¹⁵I was eyes to the blind, and I was feet to the lame. ¹⁶I was a father to the poor, and I searched out the case that I did not know. ¹⁷I broke the

fangs of the wicked, and plucked the victim from his teeth. ¹⁸ "Then I said, 'I shall die in my nest, and multiply my days as the sand. ¹⁹ My root is spread out to the waters, and the dew lies all night on my branch. ²⁰ My glory is fresh within me, and my bow is renewed in my hand.' ²¹ "Men listened to me and waited, and kept silence for my counsel. ²² After my words they did not speak again, and my speech settled on them as dew. ²³ They waited for me as for the rain, and they opened their mouth wide as for the spring rain. ²⁴ If I mocked at them, they did not believe it, and the light of my countenance they did not cast down. ²⁵ I chose the way for them, and sat as chief; so I dwelt as a king in the army, as one who comforts mourners.

Job 30

¹ "But now they mock at me, men younger than I, whose fathers I disdained to put with the dogs of my flock. ² Indeed, what profit is the strength of their hands to me? Their vigor has perished. ³ They are gaunt from want and famine, fleeing late to the wilderness, desolate and waste, ⁴ who pluck mallow by the bushes, and broom tree roots for their food. ⁵ They were driven out from among men, they shouted at them as at a thief. ⁶ They had to live in the clefts of the valleys, in caves of the earth and the rocks. ⁷ Among the bushes they brayed, under the nettles they nestled. ⁸ They were sons of fools, yes, sons of vile men; they were scourged from the land. ⁹ "And now I am their taunting song; yes, I am their byword. ¹⁰ They abhor me, they keep far from me; they do not hesitate to spit in my face. ¹¹ Because He has loosed my bowstring and afflicted me, they have cast off restraint before me. ¹² At my right hand the rabble arises; they push away my feet, and they raise against me their ways of destruction. ¹³ They break up my path, they promote my calamity; they have no helper. ¹⁴ They come as broad breakers; under the ruinous storm they roll along. ¹⁵ Terrors are turned upon me; they pursue my honor as the wind, and my prosperity has passed like a cloud. ¹⁶ "And now my soul is poured out because of my plight; the days of affliction take hold of me. ¹⁷ My bones are pierced in me at night, and my gnawing pains take no rest. ¹⁸ By great force my garment is disfigured; it binds me about as the collar of my coat. ¹⁹ He has cast me into the mire, and I have become like dust and ashes. ²⁰ "I cry out to You, but You do not answer me; I stand up, and You regard me. ²¹ But You have become cruel to me; with the strength of Your hand You oppose me. ²² You lift me up to the wind and cause me to ride on it; You spoil my success. ²³ For I know that You will bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living. ²⁴ "Surely He would not stretch out His hand against a heap of ruins, if they cry out when He destroys it. ²⁵ Have I not wept for him who was in trouble? Has not my soul grieved for the poor? ²⁶ But when I looked for good, evil came to me; and when I waited for light, then came darkness. ²⁷ My heart is in turmoil and cannot rest; days of affliction confront me. ²⁸ I go about mourning, but not in the sun; I stand up in the assembly and cry out for help. ²⁹ I am a brother of jackals, and a companion of ostriches. ³⁰ My skin grows black and falls from me; my bones burn with fever. ³¹ My harp is turned to mourning, and my flute to the voice of those who weep.

Job 31

¹ "I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman? ² For what is the allotment of God from above, and the inheritance of the Almighty from on high? ³ Is it not

destruction for the wicked, and disaster for the workers of iniquity? ⁴ Does He not see my ways, and count all my steps? ⁵ "If I have walked with falsehood, or if my foot has hastened to deceit, ⁶ let me be weighed on honest scales, that God may know my integrity. ⁷ If my step has turned from the way, or my heart walked after my eyes, or if any spot adheres to my hands, ⁸ then let me sow, and another eat; yes, let my harvest be rooted out. ⁹ "If my heart has been enticed by a woman, or if I have lurked at my neighbor's door, ¹⁰ then let my wife grind for another, and let others bow down over her. ¹¹ For that would be wickedness; yes, it would be iniquity deserving of judgment. ¹² For that would be a fire that consumes to destruction, and would root out all my increase. ¹³ "If I have despised the cause of my male or female servant when they complained against me, ¹⁴ what then shall I do when God rises up? When He punishes, how shall I answer Him? ¹⁵ Did not He who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same One fashion us in the womb? ¹⁶ "If I have kept the poor from their desire, or caused the eyes of the widow to fail, ¹⁷ or eaten my morsel by myself, so that the fatherless could not eat of it ¹⁸ (But from my youth I reared him as a father, and from my mother's womb I guided the widow); ¹⁹ if I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing, or any poor man without covering; ²⁰ if his heart has not blessed me, and if he was not warmed with the fleece of my sheep; ²¹ if I have raised my hand against the fatherless, when I saw I had help in the gate; ²² then let my arm fall from my shoulder, let my arm be torn from the socket. ²³ For destruction from God is a terror to me, and because of His magnificence I cannot endure. ²⁴ "If I have made gold my hope, or said to fine gold, 'You are my confidence'; ²⁵ if I have rejoiced because my wealth was great, and because my hand had gained much; ²⁶ if I have observed the sun when it shines, or the moon moving in brightness, ²⁷ so that my heart has been secretly enticed, and my mouth has kissed my hand; ²⁸ this also would be an iniquity deserving of judgment, for I would have denied God who is above. ²⁹ "If I have rejoiced at the destruction of him who hated me, or lifted myself up when evil found him ³⁰ (indeed I have not allowed my mouth to sin by asking for a curse on his soul); ³¹ if the men of my tent have not said, 'Who is there that has not been satisfied with his meat?' ³² (But no sojourner had to lodge in the street, for I have opened my doors to the traveler); ³³ if I have covered my transgressions as Adam, by hiding my iniquity in my bosom, ³⁴ because I feared the great multitude, and dreaded the contempt of families, so that I kept silence and did not go out of the door-- ³⁵ Oh, that I had one to hear me! Here is my mark. Oh, that the Almighty would answer me, that my Prosecutor had written a book! ³⁶ Surely I would carry it on my shoulder, and bind it on me like a crown; ³⁷ I would declare to Him the number of my steps; like a prince I would approach Him. ³⁸ "If my land cries out against me, and its furrows weep together; ³⁹ if I have eaten its fruit without money, or caused its owners to lose their lives; ⁴⁰ then let thistles grow instead of wheat, and weeds instead of barley." The words of Job are ended.

TEACHING NOTES

A Study of the Life of Job

Job - Chapters 32-37

Lesson 10

In Job 32-37, a man younger than Job and his three friends, Elihu, was *aroused against Job*. He challenged Job with what Elihu perceived was self-righteousness and the three men for their inability to have an answer for Job's distress. Like Job's friends, Elihu spoke many truths, but they were truths ill-applied. He spoke of God's grace, His justice, and His greatness. Yet, he fell short in representing the heart and intentions of God toward Job.

Observation: Read Job 32

1. Read Job 32 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Job, Job's three friends, and Elihu*.

Key Words: *God, Job, Job's three friends, Elihu, and wisdom*

3. The contrasting words *yet* and *but* occur two times in Job 32. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 32

1. After Job concluded speaking, a younger man, Elihu, felt compelled to share his thoughts regarding Job's distress. Using the first five verses of this chapter, list the reasons he was aroused to speak.

2. Although Elihu was younger than Job and his friends, according to verses 8-9 why did he still consider himself eligible to speak?
 - a. Record the words of Proverbs 2:6.
 - b. How is the *wisdom* of God different than our own knowledge or understanding?
3. Scan the remaining verses of the chapter (beginning with verse 10) and share your thoughts regarding Elihu's attitude and approach.

Observation: Read Job 33

1. Read Job 33 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Job, and Elihu*.

Key Words: *God, Spirit, Job, Elihu, wisdom/knowledge, and the Pit*

3. The contrasting words *but* and *yet* are used three times in Job 33. Mark the words. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 33

1. Although Elihu claimed he would be responding to Job's words, he makes statements that prove he did not correctly hear Job. What did he quote Job as saying in verse 9?

- a. Read 9:2,28. Summarize what Job actually said about his innocence.
2. The key word *Pit*, occurs five times in this chapter, in verses 18, 22, 24, 28, 30. Consider your own life, as God has kept you from the Pit. Using the words from chapter 33, reflect upon the grace God has shown in your life.
3. Notice Elihu's reasoning in verse 17, that God uses suffering to *turn man from his deed and conceal pride from man*. Paul was privileged to experience incredible revelations from God. What did Paul realize in 2 Corinthians 12:7?
 - a. Although God had done mighty miracles for the Israelites as they journeyed to the Promised Land, He also allowed hard times. What did Moses say was God's purpose? Deuteronomy 8:15-16.
4. Notice Elihu's statement in Job 33:29-30. How does this speak to you of God's grace?

Observation: Read Job 34

1. Read Job 34 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Job, and Elihu*.

Key Words: *God, Spirit, Job, words that refer to Job's three friends, Elihu, righteous, and understanding/wisdom/ knowledge*

3. The contrasting words *yet* and *but* occur two times in Job 34. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 34

1. As we read Elihu's discourse, we discover that he seemed to hear Job's statements but often added his own understanding to what he perceived Job to say. What did he accuse Job of saying about God in verse 5b?
2. For much of Job 34, Elihu counters the accusation that God is not just. According to Job 34:10-15, why must God be just?
 - a. Define the word just.
 - b. What do the following verses teach us about God being just?

Psalm 92:15

Romans 9:14

- c. Explain why God can never do anything wrong. Challenge: use scriptures if you can to support your answer.
3. In Job 34:16-20 Elihu proclaimed that God must be *just* because He is not partial. Elihu followed that reasoning in verses 21-30 with the fact that God is very aware of life on this earth. What are some statements that Elihu made to support this?

- a. Although we cannot see God, God sees us. God sees all that has happened, is happening, and will happen in our lives. What do you think your life would be like if this were not true?

Observation: Read Job 35

1. Read Job 35 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God*, *Job*, and *Elihu*.

Key Words: *God*, *Job*, words that refer to Job's three friends, *Elihu*, *righteous(ness)*, and *knowledge*

3. The contrasting words *yet* and *but* occur three times in Job 35. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 35

1. In Job 35, Elihu attacks what he perceives to be Job's self-righteousness. What was his accusation at the end of verse 3?
 - a. Since suffering falls upon both the righteous and the unrighteous, why does it matter whether we sin or not? Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.
2. Consider the words of verse 6. According to Isaiah 59:2, what is the effect of our sin?
 - a. Using your own words, describe the effect of sin.

- b. If you were told that your life would not change whether you sinned or not, why would you choose not to sin?
3. Job 35:10 declares that God *gives songs in the night*. In what ways have you experienced this?

Observation: Read Job 36

1. Read Job 36 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to God and *Elihu*.

Key Words: *God, Elihu, Job, words that relate to Job's three friends, righteousness, and knowledge/understanding*

3. The contrasting words *yet* and *but* occur seven times in Job 36. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 36

1. Elihu begins to speak of the greatness of God. *Behold, God is great* (verse 26). Scan through the chapter and list some of the phrases used to declare God's *greatness*.
2. Reflect upon the three questions in Job 36:22-23. What is your answer?

- a. In contrast, consider the promise of Psalm 94:12. What blessings have you experienced as you have received the Lord's instruction?

3. If someone asked you, *why is God great* what would you tell them?

Observation: Read Job 37

1. Read Job 37 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Job, and Elihu*.

Key Words: *God, Job, Elihu, and knowledge*

Read Job 37

1. ... stand still and consider the wondrous works of God (verse 14). To what does Elihu liken God's voice in verses 1-5?
 - a. List what Psalm 29:3-9 declares about God's voice.

- b. Although God's voice can be extremely powerful, share something you know about the heart behind His powerful voice?
2. The voice of the LORD can do things no other can do. Reflect upon Job 37:6-13 and list some aspects of God's powerful voice.
3. Elihu challenged Job with the words *do you know*. God will do the same thing beginning with chapter 38. Elihu's words were correct, but like Job's three friends, his premise was not. Their efforts were much like applying good medicine before considering the wound. Read Psalm 19:7-11 and record the blessings of God's word rightly applied.

Review: Job 32-37

1. Job refers to himself as "blameless" in Job 9:21. In Job 33, Elihu says that Job is not "sinless". What is the difference between being blameless and sinless?
2. Elihu ends his speech in Job 37:23-24. What do you learn about God in these verses and what is to be our response?
 - a. Do you fear God? What evidence does your life give of fearing God?

2. Share one thing that particularly ministered to you or challenged you from this study.

*As for the Almighty, we cannot find Him;
He is excellent in power, in judgment and abundant justice; He does not
oppress. - Job 37:23*

Observation Worksheet

Job 32

¹ So these three men ceased answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. ² Then the wrath of Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, was aroused against Job; his wrath was aroused because he justified himself rather than God. ³ Also against his three friends his wrath was aroused, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job. ⁴ Now because they were years older than he, Elihu had waited to speak to Job. ⁵ When Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, his wrath was aroused. ⁶ So Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, answered and said: "I am young in years, and you are very old; therefore I was afraid, and dared not declare my opinion to you. ⁷ I said, 'Age should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom.' ⁸ But there is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding. ⁹ Great men are not always wise, nor do the aged always understand justice. ¹⁰ "Therefore I say, 'Listen to me, I also will declare my opinion.' ¹¹ Indeed I waited for your words, I listened to your reasonings, while you searched out what to say. ¹² I paid close attention to you; and surely not one of you convinced Job, or answered his words-- ¹³ lest you say, 'We have found wisdom'; God will vanquish him, not man. ¹⁴ Now he has not directed his words against me; so I will not answer him with your words. ¹⁵ "They are dismayed and answer no more; words escape them. ¹⁶ And I have waited, because they did not speak, because they stood still and answered no more. ¹⁷ I also will answer my part, I too will declare my opinion. ¹⁸ For I am full of words; the spirit within me compels me. ¹⁹ Indeed my belly is like wine that has no vent; it is ready to burst like new wineskins. ²⁰ I will speak, that I may find relief; I must open my lips and answer. ²¹ Let me not, I pray, show partiality to anyone; nor let me flatter any man. ²² For I do not know how to flatter, else my Maker would soon take me away.

Job 33

¹ "But please, Job, hear my speech, and listen to all my words. ² Now, I open my mouth; my tongue speaks in my mouth. ³ My words come from my upright heart; my lips utter pure knowledge. ⁴ The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. ⁵ If you can answer me, set your words in order before me; take your stand. ⁶ Truly I am as your spokesman before God; I also have been formed out of clay. ⁷ Surely no fear of me will terrify you, nor will my hand be heavy on you. ⁸ "Surely you have spoken in my hearing, and I have heard the sound of your words, saying, ⁹ 'I am pure, without transgression; I am innocent, and there is no iniquity in me. ¹⁰ Yet He finds occasions against me, He counts me as His enemy; ¹¹ He puts my feet in the stocks, He watches all my paths.' ¹² "Look, in this you are not righteous. I will answer you, for God is greater than man. ¹³ Why do you contend with Him? For He does not give an accounting of any of His words. ¹⁴ For God may speak in one way, or in another, yet man does not perceive it. ¹⁵ In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, ¹⁶ then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction. ¹⁷ In order to turn man from his deed, and conceal pride from man, ¹⁸ He keeps back his soul from the Pit, and his life from perishing by

the sword. ¹⁹ "Man is also chastened with pain on his bed, and with strong pain in many of his bones, ²⁰ so that his life abhors bread, and his soul succulent food. ²¹ His flesh wastes away from sight, and his bones stick out which once were not seen. ²² Yes, his soul draws near the Pit, and his life to the executioners. ²³ "If there is a messenger for him, a mediator, one among a thousand, to show man His uprightness, ²⁴ then He is gracious to him, and says, 'Deliver him from going down to the Pit; I have found a ransom'; ²⁵ his flesh shall be young like a child's, he shall return to the days of his youth. ²⁶ He shall pray to God, and He will delight in him, he shall see His face with joy, for He restores to man His righteousness. ²⁷ Then he looks at men and says, 'I have sinned, and perverted what was right, and it did not profit me.' ²⁸ He will redeem his soul from going down to the Pit, and his life shall see the light. ²⁹ "Behold, God works all these things, twice, in fact, three times with a man, ³⁰ to bring back his soul from the Pit, that he may be enlightened with the light of life. ³¹ "Give ear, Job, listen to me; hold your peace, and I will speak. ³² If you have anything to say, answer me; speak, for I desire to justify you. ³³ If not, listen to me; hold your peace, and I will teach you wisdom."

Job 34

¹ Elihu further answered and said: ² "Hear my words, you wise men; give ear to me, you who have knowledge. ³ For the ear tests words as the palate tastes food. ⁴ Let us choose justice for ourselves; let us know among ourselves what is good. ⁵ "For Job has said, 'I am righteous, but God has taken away my justice; ⁶ should I lie concerning my right? My wound is incurable, though I am without transgression.' ⁷ What man is like Job, who drinks scorn like water, ⁸ who goes in company with the workers of iniquity, and walks with wicked men? ⁹ For he has said, 'It profits a man nothing that he should delight in God.' ¹⁰ "Therefore listen to me, you men of understanding: far be it from God to do wickedness, and from the Almighty to commit iniquity. ¹¹ For He repays man according to his work, and makes man to find a reward according to his way. ¹² Surely God will never do wickedly, nor will the Almighty pervert justice. ¹³ Who gave Him charge over the earth? Or who appointed Him over the whole world? ¹⁴ If He should set His heart on it, if He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath, ¹⁵ all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust. ¹⁶ "If you have understanding, hear this; listen to the sound of my words: ¹⁷ Should one who hates justice govern? Will you condemn Him who is most just? ¹⁸ Is it fitting to say to a king, 'You are worthless,' and to nobles, 'You are wicked'? ¹⁹ Yet He is not partial to princes, nor does He regard the rich more than the poor; for they are all the work of His hands. ²⁰ In a moment they die, in the middle of the night; the people are shaken and pass away; the mighty are taken away without a hand. ²¹ "For His eyes are on the ways of man, and He sees all his steps. ²² There is no darkness nor shadow of death where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves. ²³ For He need not further consider a man, that he should go before God in judgment. ²⁴ He breaks in pieces mighty men without inquiry, and sets others in their place. ²⁵ Therefore He knows their works; He overthrows them in the night, and they are crushed. ²⁶ He strikes them as wicked men in the open sight of others, ²⁷ because they turned back from Him, and would not consider any of His ways, ²⁸ so that they caused the cry of the poor to come to Him; for He hears the cry of the afflicted. ²⁹ When He gives quietness, who then can make trouble? And when He hides His face, who then

can see Him, whether it is against a nation or a man alone?-- ³⁰ That the hypocrite should not reign, lest the people be ensnared. ³¹ "For has anyone said to God, 'I have borne chastening; I will offend no more; ³² Teach me what I do not see; if I have done iniquity, I will do no more'? ³³ Should He repay it according to your terms, just because you disavow it? You must choose, and not I; therefore speak what you know. ³⁴ "Men of understanding say to me, wise men who listen to me: ³⁵ 'Job speaks without knowledge, his words are without wisdom.' ³⁶ Oh, that Job were tried to the utmost, because his answers are like those of wicked men! ³⁷ For he adds rebellion to his sin; he claps his hands among us, and multiplies his words against God."

Job 35

¹ Moreover Elihu answered and said: ² "Do you think this is right? Do you say, 'My righteousness is more than God's'? ³ For you say, 'What advantage will it be to You? What profit shall I have, more than if I had sinned?' ⁴ "I will answer you, and your companions with you. ⁵ Look to the heavens and see; and behold the clouds--they are higher than you. ⁶ If you sin, what do you accomplish against Him? Or, if your transgressions are multiplied, what do you do to Him? ⁷ If you are righteous, what do you give Him? Or what does He receive from your hand? ⁸ Your wickedness affects a man such as you, and your righteousness a son of man. ⁹ "Because of the multitude of oppressions they cry out; they cry out for help because of the arm of the mighty.

¹⁰ But no one says, 'Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night, ¹¹ who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth, and makes us wiser than the birds of heaven?' ¹² There they cry out, but He does not answer, because of the pride of evil men. ¹³ Surely God will not listen to empty talk, nor will the Almighty regard it. ¹⁴ Although you say you do not see Him, yet justice is before Him, and you must wait for Him. ¹⁵ And now, because He has not punished in His anger, nor taken much notice of folly, ¹⁶ therefore Job opens his mouth in vain; he multiplies words without knowledge."

Job 36

¹ Elihu also proceeded and said: ² "Bear with me a little, and I will show you that there are yet words to speak on God's behalf. ³ I will fetch my knowledge from afar; I will ascribe righteousness to my Maker. ⁴ For truly my words are not false; one who is perfect in knowledge is with you. ⁵ "Behold, God is mighty, but despises no one; He is mighty in strength of understanding. ⁶ He does not preserve the life of the wicked, but gives justice to the oppressed. ⁷ He does not withdraw His eyes from the righteous; but they are on the throne with kings, for He has seated them forever, and they are exalted. ⁸ And if they are bound in fetters, held in the cords of affliction, ⁹ then He tells them their work and their transgressions--that they have acted defiantly. ¹⁰ He also opens their ear to instruction, and commands that they turn from iniquity. ¹¹ If they obey and serve Him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures. ¹² But if they do not obey, they shall perish by the sword, and they shall die without knowledge. ¹³ "But the hypocrites in heart store up wrath; they do not cry for help when He binds them. ¹⁴ They die in youth, and their life ends among the perverted persons. ¹⁵ He delivers the poor in their affliction, and opens their

ears in oppression. ¹⁶ "Indeed He would have brought you out of dire distress, into a broad place where there is no restraint; and what is set on your table would be full of richness. ¹⁷ But you are filled with the judgment due the wicked; judgment and justice take hold of you. ¹⁸ Because there is wrath, beware lest He take you away with one blow; for a large ransom would not help you avoid it. ¹⁹ Will your riches, or all the mighty forces, keep you from distress? ²⁰ Do not desire the night, when people are cut off in their place. ²¹ Take heed, do not turn to iniquity, for you have chosen this rather than affliction. ²² "Behold, God is exalted by His power; who teaches like Him? ²³ Who has assigned Him His way, or who has said, 'You have done wrong'? ²⁴ "Remember to magnify His work, of which men have sung. ²⁵ Everyone has seen it; man looks on it from afar. ²⁶ "Behold, God is great, and we do not know Him; nor can the number of His years be discovered. ²⁷ For He draws up drops of water, which distill as rain from the mist, ²⁸ which the clouds drop down and pour abundantly on man. ²⁹ Indeed, can anyone understand the spreading of clouds, the thunder from His canopy? ³⁰ Look, He scatters His light upon it, and covers the depths of the sea. ³¹ For by these He judges the peoples; He gives food in abundance. ³² He covers His hands with lightning, and commands it to strike. ³³ His thunder declares it, the cattle also, concerning the rising storm.

Job 37

¹ "At this also my heart trembles, and leaps from its place. ² Hear attentively the thunder of His voice, and the rumbling that comes from His mouth. ³ He sends it forth under the whole heaven, His lightning to the ends of the earth. ⁴ After it a voice roars; He thunders with His majestic voice, and He does not restrain them when His voice is heard. ⁵ God thunders marvelously with His voice; He does great things which we cannot comprehend. ⁶ For He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth'; likewise to the gentle rain and the heavy rain of His strength. ⁷ He seals the hand of every man, that all men may know His work. ⁸ The beasts go into dens, and remain in their lairs. ⁹ From the chamber of the south comes the whirlwind, and cold from the scattering winds of the north. ¹⁰ By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen. ¹¹ Also with moisture He saturates the thick clouds; He scatters His bright clouds. ¹² and they swirl about, being turned by His guidance, that they may do whatever He commands them on the face of the whole earth.

¹³ He causes it to come, whether for correction, or for His land, or for mercy. ¹⁴ "Listen to this, O Job; stand still and consider the wondrous works of God. ¹⁵ Do you know when God dispatches them, and causes the light of His cloud to shine? ¹⁶ Do you know how the clouds are balanced, those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge? ¹⁷ Why are your garments hot, when He quiets the earth by the south wind? ¹⁸ With Him, have you spread out the skies, strong as a cast metal mirror? ¹⁹ "Teach us what we should say to Him, for we can prepare nothing because of the darkness. ²⁰ Should He be told that I wish to speak? If a man were to speak, surely he would be swallowed up. ²¹ Even now men cannot look at the light when it is bright in the skies, when the wind has passed and cleared them. ²² He comes from the north as golden splendor; with God is awesome majesty. ²³ As for the Almighty, we cannot find Him; He is excellent in power, in judgment and abundant justice; He does not oppress. ²⁴ Therefore men fear Him; He shows no partiality to any who are wise of heart."

TEACHING NOTES

A Study of the Life of Job

Job - Chapters 38-40

Lesson 11

“The storm that Elihu had been describing in Job 37 finally broke, and God spoke to Job out of the storm. The answer to Job’s problems was not an explanation about God, such as the three friends and Elihu had given, but a revelation of God. The four men had declared and defended the greatness of God but had failed to persuade Job. When God displayed His majesty and greatness, it humbled Job and brought him to the place of silent submission before God. That was the turning point.” *Warren Wiersbe*

Observation: Read Job 38

1. Read Job 38 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark the personal pronouns *you/your* as they refer to *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job* (if you choose to, mark the uses of the word *who* as if refers to *God*)

3. The contrasting word *but* is used in verse 11. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 38

1. After the five men had finished spouting their wisdom to one another, the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind. He answered with a series of 77 questions. Before He asked questions, many of which He is the answer, what question did He ask in verse 2?

- a. What are some examples you have seen in Job of *darkening counsel by words without knowledge* (masking the ways of God rather than exposing them)?
- b. What are your thoughts when you consider God's reaction to this type of reasoning?

2. Job had longed for an opportunity to question God. What did God say He would do? (verse 3)
 - a. What questions have you desired to ask God in times of pain or distress?
 - b. God has answered some of our own questions by revealing truths to us that we were not seeking at the time. What are some truths from God's word that maybe have not given you answers, but have taken away your questions?
3. In Job 38:4-7, God spoke of His creation comparing Himself to a master builder. Imagine the greatest builder the world has ever known being given the assignment of building the earth. List a few of God's building abilities that no man has.
 - a. What did the morning stars and all the sons of God do when God laid the cornerstone?
 - b. Considering that they sang and shouted for joy, they probably had not given God any advice as to how to create. What lesson can we learn from this?
4. In Job 38:8-11 God called Job to consider His creative powers over the sea. What did God do?

- a. Have you ever thought about trying to stop a wave? Even with the best of resources, a wave could only be contained by a dam. Describe the power that can limit the ocean.
5. Scan verses 12-21 and share your thoughts about one of the questions that God asked that reveals His greatness.
6. According to verse 22-23, what has God done with some of the hail?
 - a. Read Revelation 16:21 and record what God did with some of the hail that He reserved.
Challenge: find other instances in Scripture when God used hail for times of trouble.
 - b. What is your response when you read verses that compliment other verses in the Bible?
7. Reflect upon God's questions in Job 38:34. Man cannot command it to rain. What are some other things that man cannot command, yet God can?
8. What two questions did God ask in Job 38:36?
 - a. Record the words of Psalm 51:6.
 - b. Since this statement is true, why do you think Christians often lean on their own understanding, wisdom, and experience?
 - c. What do you cherish about the wisdom God gives?

Observation: Read Job 39

1. Read Job 39 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark the personal pronouns *you/your* as they refer to *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job* (if you choose to, mark the uses of the word *who* as it refers to *God*)

3. The contrasting word *but* is used in verse 13. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 39

1. Man cannot create or measure as God does. He also cannot oversee creation as God does. Using the following chart, list the things God does for different creatures.

Creature

God's Knowledge, Care, Design

mountain goats, deer, bears

wild donkeys, onagers

Creature

God's Knowledge, Care, Design

wild ox

ostrich

horses, hawk

eagle

2. Read again God's comments about the ostrich in verses 13-18. God has deprived the ostrich of wisdom, yet she *waves* her seemingly useless wings proudly. What does Genesis 1:31 teach us about God's response to everything that He made?
 - a. What does this tell you about the creation and design of even the ostrich?
3. What are your thoughts as you consider God's questions in this chapter?

Observation: Read Job 40

1. Read Job 40 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and personal pronouns *you/yourself* as they refer to *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job*

3. The contrasting words *yet* and *but* occur three times in Job 40. Mark the word. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 40

1. As the months of Job's distress passed, it seemed to Job that God was neither watching or caring about what was happening to him. He longed for a chance to challenge God for the way He was treating him. What two things did God accuse Job of doing in verse 2?
2. Rather than correct God, Job responded in humility. Write his words as recorded in verses 3-5.
 - a. Considering the previous two chapters, what do you think God said that caused Job to realize his vileness and no longer want to contend with God as he had before?
3. What question did God ask Job in verse 8a?
 - a. Record the words of Isaiah 14:24, 26-27.

- b. How does this challenge you when you are tempted to doubt His ways?
4. Throughout Job's questioning of God, it could be said that he seemed more concerned with the defense of his own integrity rather than God's. (See Job 40:8b) How does this challenge you when you are tempted to think you are right and God is wrong?
5. Reflect upon God's invitation to Job to pass judgment on others in verses 9-13. God had challenged Job's knowledge, his wisdom, and his power. Here God provokes Job to sit in God's seat of judgment and right the wrongs of the earth. Many of us have flippantly said we would like that privilege. What mistakes might you make if you were in that place?
6. Job 40:15-24 closes with God's call to Job to look now at the behemoth. It is not known what the behemoth was, but what can we know about this creature from these verses?
 - a. Job apparently understood that the behemoth was unapproachable by all but God. Why do you think God used the example of this mighty creature in His questioning of Job?

Review: Job 38-40

1. What is your impression of God's response to Job?

2. Why do you think this revelation of God quieted Job's questions when his friends' explanation about God failed?
3. Take a moment and praise God by listing a few things that you have discovered about His power and care.

O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions. - - Psalm 104:24

Observation Worksheet

Job 38

¹ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: ² "Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³ Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. ⁴ "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. ⁵ Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶ To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷ when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? ⁸ "Or who shut in the sea with doors, when it burst forth and issued from the womb; ⁹ when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band; ¹⁰ when I fixed My limit for it, and set bars and doors; ¹¹ when I said, 'This far you may come, but no farther, and here your proud waves must stop!' ¹² "Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, ¹³ That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? ¹⁴ It takes on form like clay under a seal, and stands out like a garment. ¹⁵ From the wicked their light is withheld, and the upraised arm is broken. ¹⁶ "Have you entered the springs of the sea? Or have you walked in search of the depths? ¹⁷ Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death? ¹⁸ Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this. ¹⁹ "Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place, ²⁰ that you may take it to its territory, that you may know the paths to its home? ²¹ Do you know it, because you were born then, or because the number of your days is great? ²² "Have you entered the treasury of snow, or have you seen the treasury of hail, ²³ which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war? ²⁴ By what way is light diffused, or the east wind scattered over the earth? ²⁵ "Who has divided a channel for the overflowing water, or a path for the thunderbolt, ²⁶ to cause it to rain on a land where there is no one, a wilderness in which there is no man; ²⁷ to satisfy the desolate waste, and cause to spring forth the growth of tender grass? ²⁸ Has the rain a father? Or who has begotten the drops of dew? ²⁹ From whose womb comes the ice? And the frost of heaven, who gives it birth? ³⁰ The waters harden like stone, and the surface of the deep is frozen. ³¹ "Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, or loose the belt of Orion? ³² Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs? ³³ Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth? ³⁴ "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that an abundance of water may cover you? ³⁵ Can you send out lightnings, that they may go, and say to you, 'Here we are!'? ³⁶ Who has put wisdom in the mind? Or who has given understanding to the heart? ³⁷ Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven, ³⁸ when the dust hardens in clumps, and the clods cling together? ³⁹ "Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, ⁴⁰ when they crouch in their dens, or lurk in their lairs to lie in wait? ⁴¹ Who provides food for the raven, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?

Job 39

¹ "Do you know the time when the wild mountain goats bear young? Or can you mark when the deer gives birth? ² Can you number the months that they fulfill? Or do you know the time when they bear young? ³ They bow down, they bring forth their young, they deliver their offspring.

⁴ Their young ones are healthy, they grow strong with grain; they depart and do not return to them. ⁵ "Who set the wild donkey free? Who loosed the bonds of the onager, ⁶ whose home I have made the wilderness, and the barren land his dwelling? ⁷ He scorns the tumult of the city; He does not heed the shouts of the driver. ⁸ The range of the mountains is his pasture, and he searches after every green thing. ⁹ "Will the wild ox be willing to serve you? Will he bed by your manger? ¹⁰ Can you bind the wild ox in the furrow with ropes? Or will he plow the valleys behind you? ¹¹ Will you trust him because his strength is great? Or will you leave your labor to him? ¹² Will you trust him to bring home your grain, and gather it to your threshing floor? ¹³ "The wings of the ostrich wave proudly, but are her wings and pinions like the kindly stork's? ¹⁴ For she leaves her eggs on the ground, and warms them in the dust; ¹⁵ she forgets that a foot may crush them, or that a wild beast may break them. ¹⁶ She treats her young harshly, as though they were not hers; her labor is in vain, without concern, ¹⁷ because God deprived her of wisdom, and did not endow her with understanding. ¹⁸ When she lifts herself on high, she scorns the horse and its rider. ¹⁹ "Have you given the horse strength? Have you clothed his neck with thunder? ²⁰ Can you frighten him like a locust? His majestic snorting strikes terror. ²¹ He paws in the valley, and rejoices in his strength; he gallops into the clash of arms. ²² He mocks at fear, and is not frightened; nor does he turn back from the sword. ²³ The quiver rattles against him, the glittering spear and javelin. ²⁴ He devours the distance with fierceness and rage; nor does he come to a halt because the trumpet has sounded. ²⁵ At the blast of the trumpet he says, 'Aha! He smells the battle from afar, the thunder of captains and shouting. ²⁶ "Does the hawk fly by your wisdom, and spread its wings toward the south? ²⁷ Does the eagle mount up at your command, and make its nest on high? ²⁸ On the rock it dwells and resides, on the crag of the rock and the stronghold. ²⁹ From there it spies out the prey; -its eyes observe from afar. ³⁰ Its young ones suck up blood; and where the slain are, there it is."

Job 40

¹ Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said: ² "Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it." ³ Then Job answered the LORD and said: ⁴ "Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth. ⁵ Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; yes, twice, but I will proceed no further." ⁶ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: ⁷ "Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me: ⁸ "Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified? ⁹ Have you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His? ¹⁰ Then adorn yourself with majesty and splendor, and array yourself with glory and beauty. ¹¹ Disperse the rage of your wrath; look on everyone who is proud, and humble him. ¹² Look on everyone who is proud, and bring him low; tread down the wicked in their place. ¹³ Hide them in the dust together, bind their faces in hidden darkness. ¹⁴ Then I will also confess to you that your own right hand can save you. ¹⁵ "Look now at the behemoth, which I made along with you; he eats grass like an ox. ¹⁶ See now, his strength is in his hips, and his power is in his stomach muscles. ¹⁷ He moves his tail like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are tightly knit. ¹⁸ His bones are like beams of bronze, his ribs like bars of iron. ¹⁹ He is the first of the ways of God; only He who made him can bring near His sword. ²⁰ Surely the mountains yield food for him, and all the beasts of the field play there. ²¹ He lies under the lotus trees, in a covert of reeds and marsh. ²² The lotus trees cover him with their shade; the willows by the brook surround him. ²³ Indeed the river may rage, yet he is not disturbed; he is confident, though the Jordan gushes into his mouth, ²⁴ though he takes it in his eyes, or one pierces his nose with a snare.

TEACHING NOTES

A Study of the Life of Job

Job - Chapters 41,42

Lesson 12

The final two chapters begin with God's last set of questions for Job, all revolving around the Leviathan, an unknown creature who was powerful and untamable. These chapters reflect Job's final discourse. The book of Job closes with Job's acknowledgment of the wonders of God, God's vindication of Job, and the restoration of his losses. God and Job proved Satan to be wrong. God is loveable!

Observation: Read Job 41

1. Read Job 41 using the Observation Worksheet. After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job*

Read Job 41

1. As God continued with His questions, He spent an entire chapter addressing the strength and untameableness of the *Leviathan*. Some think the Leviathan was a crocodile, others an enormous sea creature. Its identity matters little to us, however, we should take note what God says about this creature as it is mentioned four other times in Scripture. Record what the following verses reveal about the Leviathan:

Job 3:8

Psalm 74:13-14

Psalm 104:25-26

Isaiah 27:1

2. Read through Job 41 and list facts about the Leviathan that help you determine what it was like.
3. Considering God's choices of objects, as recorded in Job 38-41, what do you think He wanted Job and his friends to understand?
4. Why do you think He chose a creature like the Leviathan to accomplish His purposes?
5. List some questions that God asked Job about his ability to deal with a Leviathan.
 - a. Considering God's questions, what was Job (or any man) unable to do?
7. In what ways does this chapter remind you of your lack of control and power over many things/situations in life? Why is it important to remember this?

- a. What are we to do when we are without strength?
- 8. God revealed His strength throughout Job 38-41. He also revealed how weak man is in comparison. Lest we become discouraged in our weakness, bask in as many verses as you have time to look up:

Exodus 15:2

Exodus 15:13

Numbers 24:8

2 Samuel 22:33,40

1 Chronicles 16:11,27

Psalm 18:1,2

Psalm 27:1

Psalm 28:7

Psalm 29:11

Psalm 46:1

Psalm 73:26

Psalm 84:5

Psalm 105:4

Romans 5:6

2 Corinthians 12:9

Ephesians 3:16

Philippians 4:13

1 Peter 5:10

- a. Ponder Paul's response after he realized his weakness and the strengthening power of God's grace in 2 Corinthians 12:9. What are your thoughts?

Observation: Read Job 42

1. Read Job 42 using the Observation Worksheet. After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God*, *Job*, and any words that relate to Job's three *friends*.

3. The contrasting word *but* is used in verse 5. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 42

1. What were the first words that Job spoke after hearing God? (verse 2)
 - a. Applying this to Job's calamities and the thoughts he expressed, what do you think Job realized?
 - b. What other attributes of God are helpful to remember in times of distress?
2. In Job 42:3, Job repeated God's first question (Job 38:2). Job followed the question with a term of conclusion. What did Job say?
 - a. The wonderful works of God should inspire a reaction from us. What is your reaction as you think about His wonderful works?
 - b. The Hebrew word translated as *wonderful* in Job 42:3, has been translated as wondrous in other verses. How should we respond to His wondrous works? 1 Chronicles 16:9,12
 - c. What does Psalm 78:10-11 accuse Israel of doing?
 - d. How important do you think it is to God, that we remember and praise Him for His wonderful works?

3. As we look at the progression of Job's thoughts, what statement did He make in verse 5?
 - a. In what ways can we, as believers, *see* God?
 - b. What difference has it made in your life, when God reveals Himself to you in a deeper way?
4. Job's conclusion is stated in verse 6. Write Job's conclusion: Therefore, _____

- a. Why is repentance often the result of seeing God?
5. Read Psalm 51:1-4 and share how David and Job can relate.
6. The LORD'S wrath was aroused against Eliphaz and his two friends. Why? see verse 7
 - a. Many of their statements about the LORD were correct. Yet, how did they misrepresent His character?
7. What instructions did the LORD give to the three friends? (verse 8)
 - a. What did He tell them that Job would do? (verse 8)

8. *And the LORD restored Job's losses...* (Job 42:10). When did He restore Job's losses?

- a. If you had been Job, how would you have felt about having to pray for friends like the ones Job had?
- b. Why would the restoration be incomplete if God had restored the losses before Job prayed for his friends?
- c. Make a list of the losses that the LORD restored.
- d. Which restored loss would have been most significant to you and why?

Review: Job 41-42

1. Job was given no explanation of his sufferings from God. What brought him to the deep humbling and self-abasement described in Job 42:1-6?
2. Job passed the test! He did not curse God. What are your thoughts as you contemplate this?
3. Warren Wiersbe in his commentary on Job, writes: Job realized that whatever God does is right and man must accept it by faith. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
4. James 5:11 *Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and see the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.* Job's perseverance is a model for us. In what ways did he show perseverance?

- a. How did God show Himself compassionate and merciful?
5. Of all the losses that Job experienced, what would have been the most difficult one for you and why?
6. As you consider the journey we have been on with Job from the scene in heaven in chapter 1 to the restoration of his losses in chapter 42, pick at least two or three lessons you have learned and record them below.
 - a. What changes have you seen in your life because of studying Job regarding your attitudes, priorities, beliefs or practices?
 - b. What changes need to take place that haven't yet?

...Blessed be the name of the LORD. - Job 1:21

Observation Worksheet

Job 41

⁴ "Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook, or snare his tongue with a line which you lower? ² Can you put a reed through his nose, or pierce his jaw with a hook? ³ Will he make many supplications to you? Will he speak softly to you? ⁴ Will he make a covenant with you? Will you take him as a servant forever? ⁵ Will you play with him as with a bird, or will you leash him for your maidens? ⁶ Will your companions make a banquet of him? Will they apportion him among the merchants? ⁷ Can you fill his skin with harpoons, or his head with fishing spears? ⁸ Lay your hand on him; remember the battle--never do it again! ⁹ Indeed, any hope of overcoming him is false; shall one not be overwhelmed at the sight of him? ¹⁰ No one is so fierce that he would dare stir him up. Who then is able to stand against Me? ¹¹ Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine. ¹² "I will not conceal his limbs, his mighty power, or his graceful proportions. ¹³ Who can remove his outer coat? Who can approach him with a double bridle? ¹⁴ Who can open the doors of his face, with his terrible teeth all around? ¹⁵ His rows of scales are his pride, shut up tightly as with a seal; ¹⁶ one is so near another that no air can come between them; ¹⁷ they are joined one to another, they stick together and cannot be parted. ¹⁸ His sneezings flash forth light, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning. ¹⁹ Out of his mouth go burning lights; sparks of fire shoot out. ²⁰ Smoke goes out of his nostrils, as from a boiling pot and burning rushes. ²¹ His breath kindles coals, and a flame goes out of his mouth. ²² Strength dwells in his neck, and sorrow dances before him. ²³ The folds of his flesh are joined together; they are firm on him and cannot be moved. ²⁴ His heart is as hard as stone, even as hard as the lower millstone. ²⁵ When he raises himself up, the mighty are afraid; because of his crashings they are beside themselves. ²⁶ Though the sword reaches him, it cannot avail; nor does spear, dart, or javelin. ²⁷ He regards iron as straw, and bronze as rotten wood. ²⁸ The arrow cannot make him flee; slingstones become like stubble to him. ²⁹ Darts are regarded as straw; he laughs at the threat of javelins. ³⁰ His undersides are like sharp potsherds; he spreads pointed marks in the mire. ³¹ He makes the deep boil like a pot; he makes the sea like a pot of ointment. ³² He leaves a shining wake behind him; one would think the deep had white hair. ³³ On earth there is nothing like him, which is made without fear. ³⁴ He beholds every high thing; he is king over all the children of pride."

Job 42

¹ Then Job answered the LORD and said: ² "I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. ³ You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore, I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁴ Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.' ⁵ "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. ⁶ Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." ⁷ And so it was, after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that

the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has. ⁸ Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to My servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and My servant Job shall pray for you. For I will accept him, lest I deal with you according to your folly; because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has." ⁹ So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the LORD commanded them; for the LORD had accepted Job. ¹⁰ And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. ¹¹ Then all his brothers, all his sisters, and all those who had been his acquaintances before, came to him and ate food with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversity that the LORD had brought upon him. Each one gave him a piece of silver and each a ring of gold. ¹² Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. ¹³ He also had seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴ And he called the name of the first Jemimah, the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-Happuch. ¹⁵ In all the land were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. ¹⁶ After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations.

¹⁷ So Job died, old and full of days.

TEACHING NOTES