

Week 1 (w/c 14th May)

Worship in all Circumstances

Job has it all ... but then it is all taken away. One day his life is great, the next it is total pants!

▶ **Use the 'Emotion Cards':** how do you feel when everything has gone wrong?

▶ Use the 'UP' Key Question card
(*Message answers now to Karl or Helen*)

Now listen to how Job responds to God (Job 1:20 – 22):
Job got up, tore his clothes, and made himself look miserable. Then he said to God:

“Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall depart.

The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away – may the name of the Lord be praised!”

If things go horribly wrong ... can we still choose to worship God?

Week 2 (w/c 21st May)

Accept Trouble

Things are now so bad for Job that even his wife says:
'Job – you should give up! Give Up on God, and Give Up on Life'

When do you feel like giving up?

Now listen again to what Job says to his wife (Job 2:10):
“You are talking foolishly. Should we only accept good from God, and never trouble?”

► **Use the 'Emotion Cards':** how do you think Job is feeling?

► Job doesn't seem ready to give up. Pretend you are Job and write a couple of sentences declaring that he still believes that God is good.
(Message these now to Karl or Helen)

Week 3 (w/c 28th May)

Sadness

Job becomes very sad. So sad that he can no longer see a way forward. He speaks up about how sad he feels.

Why is it important to tell others about how we feel?

Listen to some of the things he said (Job 3:24 – 26):

“Being sad has become my daily food;

My groans pour out like water.

What I feared has come over me,

What I dreaded has happened to me.

I have no peace, no quiet, no rest – only turmoil.”

► **Get a sheet of paper.** List on one side some bad things and how they make you feel. List on the other side all the good things you can think of.

→ What happens if you then cover up the list of good things?

→ Is there a difference between *how you feel*, and what is actually real in the bigger picture?

Week 4 (w/c 4th June)

Need a Mediator

Job cannot make sense of what is happening to him. He wants to have a big argument with God about it!

How do you feel when something bothers you and you think mum/dad/teacher is not listening to you about it?

Would it help for someone else to speak to them on your behalf?

Job wants someone who can be a 'go between' (Job 9:33 – 35):

“If only there was someone to mediate between us, someone to bring us together, someone to remove God's rod from me so that I am no longer frightened. Then I would speak up without fear of him – but at the moment I cannot.”

Who do we know who fulfils that role of mediating between us, who brings us and God together?

► Use the 'IN' Key Question card
(Message answers now to Karl or Helen)

Week 5 (w/c 11th June)

Free Will

Job now questions everything! But his questions are the same ones we all ask sooner or later ...

► **Imagine a game of football** (or other game or sport). Would it be any fun or be a good game if:

- all the players were robots following a preset computer programme
- the players were human, but there were no rules, not even a pitch marked out

Job wonders why God gave us choice (Job 10:14 – 15):
“If I sinned you would be watching me and would not let my offence go unpunished. If I am guilty then woe to me. Even if I am innocent, I cannot lift my head for I am full of shame ...”

*If God is perfect love, can He **force** you to love Him in return?*

Week 6 (w/c 18th June)

Hints of Resurrection

Job continues to explore deep questions of life.

► **Make a den** - or at least a completely dark space together. Find the smallest torch or light you have in the house and then turn it on inside your dark hide-away: does the light give you a glimmer of hope?

Listen to two of Job's thoughts (Job 14:13 – 14a and 19:25 - 26):

“If only you would hide me in the grave and conceal me until your anger has passed! If only you would set a time and then remember me! If someone dies, will they live again?”

“I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God”

When we are upset, hurt or confused, where can we look to find a glimmer of light or hope?

Week 7 (w/c 25th June)

Interlude – Finding Wisdom

Like the instrumental section in one of our church songs
– a moment to ponder 'where can wisdom be found?'

What is more important?

- lots of toys
- lots of money
- finding 'true wisdom'

*We can find all kinds of wonderful treasure in the world
... but where can we find true wisdom?*

Read from a Bible these verses to help you ponder:

Job 28:1 – 2 and

Job 28:20 – 28

► **Make a Treasure Map:** Show all kinds of riches ... but also finding knowledge of God
(*Take a photo and send now to Karl or Helen*)

Do you think 'wisdom' in this Job 28 chapter might actually mean 'Knowing God' or even 'the Holy Spirit'?

Week 8 (w/c 2nd July)

True Fasting

Job has moved on. He is now able to look back across his life.

What does it mean to truly honour God – is it religious ritual, or the way we live with other people?

Listen to these thoughts from Job (Job 29:12 – 16):

“I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had no one to assist them. The one who was dying blessed me, I made the widow's heart sing. I put on righteousness as my clothing, justice as my robe. I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame.”

► Use the 'OUT' Key Question card
(Message answers now to Karl or Helen)

Week 9 (w/c 9th July)

God's Final Word

At last God butts in! He doesn't seem to answer any of Job's questions ... and yet His answer seems to be enough ...

► **Use the 'Emotion Cards'**: as you listen to Job chapter 39, how do *you* feel?

Read from a Bible Job chapter 39 – and then use the 'Emotion Cards' as suggested above

► Pretend again you are Job right now, listening to God say all this – write a couple of sentences of what you now think Job might say back.
(Message these now to Karl or Helen)

Week 10 (w/c 16th July)

God Restores

Job responds by saying something like: 'Forget all I said against you God – here I am!'. God restores Job, giving him even more than he had at the beginning.

► **Use the 'Emotion Cards'**: how do *you* feel when you need to say 'sorry'? Does your mood change once you have said 'sorry' and things are restored?

Listen to some of Job's final response (Job 42:1 - 6):

“I know that you can do all things – no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.

My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I am sorry and take it all back – compared to you I am not worthy”

► Write two more sentences – what would you say to God right now?

(Message these now to Karl or Helen)