

Scripture and Background Information for June 9 - July 6

Bad Medicine

Rather than providing similar, short background information each week, we have written one document to provide you with background for the entire “Job” series. To prepare for discussion each week, group members should use the **Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD’S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scriptures from Job below. You will notice that we are continuing the pattern of your discussing scripture *after* the Sunday message on that passage.

Background for Job

Suffering happens to everyone. When we’re in it, we often can’t see beyond it. When we’re out of it, we often can’t see inside it. As a result, most of us don’t suffer well; and don’t offer help or hope to those who are suffering. During this series we’ll look at the book of Job for biggest “baddest” explanations all of us are tempted to believe or offer in the face of suffering. Then, we’ll find truth and hope and good news to cling to, even while we wait for the suffering to end.

The book of Job begins with a description of the setting—the conversation between God and Satan and all of Job’s blessings. Overnight, Job’s blessing dissolve into heartaches as he suffers the loss of health, wealth, family, and status. Left in turmoil over his sudden life change, Job seeks an answer to the question, “Why?” Four of Job’s friends are unable to provide the insight Job desperately needs. Finally, God teaches Job the valuable lessons of His sovereignty and the need for complete trust in God who is constantly at work behind the scenes.

June 9-15: Job 4:5-9 & Isaiah 53:4-6. In Job 4:5-9 Job’s friend Eliphaz assumes that Job is sinning. Eliphaz tells Job that God does not punish innocent people. However, scripture reminds us that Jesus was the perfect example of an innocent person who suffers in Isaiah 53:4-6.

June 16-22: Job 8:5-7 & Luke 22:39-44. In Job 8:5-7 Job’s friend Bildad argues that Job just needs to pray harder in his suffering, then he will be blessed. Luke 22:39-44 reminds us that Jesus suffered too, yet his heartfelt prayer did not stop his suffering.

June 23-29: Job 27:1-6 and Matthew 27:41-43. Job defends himself against the bad counsel of his friends, but he also is guilty of misdiagnosing his situation by declaring that God is unjust. In Matthew 27:43, Jesus is being mocked on the cross, but he does not demand immediate justice.

June 30-July 6: In Job 38:1-4, God ends the debate that has been taking place between Job and his friends. God moves Job and his friends to a place where they can offer no rebuttal. God shows Job His own perspective which leads Job to humble acceptance that God is in control.

Scriptures for the upcoming weeks:

July 7
July 14

John 13:1-3
John 13:4-11