**JOURNEYING TOGETHER:** FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Session 3 of 4

# Job

### MEETING AIM

To explore the how Job faced losing everything.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

Job 3

### BACKGROUND

This session plan is intended for use either in-person or online, depending on how you’re meeting. Adapt the activities to fit your situation.

The character and story of Job is probably the darkest in the Bible. The pain and suffering he goes through is second only to those he loses. His response is understandable. When it all goes wrong – I hate myself and all that I am. Nothing is Job’s fault, yet he has to live with the consequences.

There are big theological issues around whether the events here literally happened. The issue of God having a bet with Satan is difficult at the best of times. However, the reason Job and these events are recorded are to help us face the issues Job faced, and that is the focus of this session’s Bible passage.

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

Share your refreshments and invite the group to share what they have been doing during the past seven days. Encourage them to talk about any issues they may be having and any situations they are feeling negative about. Again, remember to be pastorally aware of your group during this session.

### INTRO ACTIVITY – 10 mins

Ask if anyone knows the radio show Desert Island Discs. Depending on their reply you can explain the premise and say that you are going to think about desert island items. What items do we love and couldn’t imagine living without?

Get into pairs and discuss their favourite song, book, luxury item, TV series, film and item of clothing. Bring the group together and ask the pairs to feed back their desert island items. Ask them if they could imagine living without any of those things.

### BIBLE EXPLORATION – 10 mins

**You will need:** Bibles

Use the following short drama to explore the Bible passage. You could practise it before the session or ask confident readers to read it out on the day:

**TV anchor:** Welcome to Channel YCW, I’m your host, Ward Wordly. Today we have an exclusive live broadcast featuring Job, dubbed the unluckiest man in the world. He’s lost everything in the past few days. Once he was a business tycoon, now he’s an infected buffoon. We all like a good hard luck story. Let’s go live now and see what he’s saying.

**Job:** Well, I was born and pretty much that was the low point. No, scratch that, from the moment my parents knew I was going to be born was the low point. And things have been going downhill since then.

**Reporter 1:** Excuse me, Mr Job, but you were a successful businessman, owning lots of livestock, you had everything.

**Job:** But what is the point of having these things if they are going to be taken away? Look, we come into the world with nothing and we leave with nothing. It doesn’t matter if you are a monarch, a successful entrepreneur or a slave. In the end we are all the same when we die. What is the point of even being born?

**Reporter 2:** It’s interesting hearing you say this. I thought you were a good man who trusted God.

**Job:** Yes, I believe that God gives, but God also takes things back. Why has it happened? Why have I lost everything? My business has gone, my children have gone and now my health has gone. I am alive, but what is the point of living like this?

**TV anchor:** Well, there you have it. Mr Job, not just the unluckiest person in the world but probably the most depressing guy too. Let’s cheer ourselves up with the weather report. Gail, I hear there’s a hurricane on the way…

Ask someone to read Job 3. Explain that this is a very difficult passage, but one that feels very real. For anyone who has gone through loss, Job’s words will be understood. Point out that Job was a very good and devout man. But he lost everything – his children, business and health. This was all down to God allowing Satan to take those things from Job. (You might want to read Job 1 if you have time.)

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

As you talk about today’s passage, be aware of the responses of your group. This, like all the other sessions in this series, may bring to light issues that group members may, or may not, be coping with.

* How do you cope when bad things happen?
* Have you ever said: “Why me?”?
* Is Job’s problem that he is just not thankful for what he has? Why? Why not?
* If we thank God for the good things we have, should we blame God for the bad that happens in our lives?

### CREATIVE RESPONSE – 10 mins

**You will need:** pens; paper

Explain that often our prayers and our journey of faith can be ‘nice’. The danger with this is that when we face difficulties, they don’t fit with our faith. Our prayers should contain all human emotion. It isn’t necessarily about blaming God, but it is about letting God know how we feel, all our emotions. Holding in and hiding emotions can lead to issues with both our mental and physical health.

Naomi hated herself and had a low self-image as she went through her struggles. Elijah ran away and felt all alone, perhaps depressed, and Job wishes he had never been born. However, Job shows us that complaining to God, being real with how he feels is OK. The challenge is how to complain.

Write a prayer of complaint to God. Explain that these prayers are private and no one will see them. Encourage the young people to be open and honest in their words to God. They can be about something personal or a wider issue in the world. Make the point that God made us emotional beings, therefore our prayers should be emotional too.

### PRAYER – 5 mins

Close with this short prayer:

Dear Lord,

Help us to be honest with out words to you:

If we are happy, let us share that joy;

If we are sad, let us tell you why;

If we are angry, hear our cry.

Be with us as we live the precious gift of life.

Amen.

Then give a time of quiet for the young people to reflect on everything they have encountered today. Be available if anyone wants to chat.

**DARREN HILL**

tells stories at the [Creative Minimalist](https://www.darrenrhill.com/).