

How to Prepare for and Endure Suffering and Pain

Job 1-2

When we talk about evil and suffering, we are speaking to a variety of groups: 1) believers who are not facing any trials at the moment; 2) believers who have questions and doubts after considering the problem of suffering and evil; 3) believers who are personally suffering and have questions and doubts; and, 4) those who don't yet know Christ who raise this question.

“No matter where we live, no matter the circumstances of our lives, no matter how much money or worldly success we may have, we all experience evil.” (Powell, *Christian Apologetics*, 333)

1. **Let's identify the problem:** _____.
(Psalm 1, 73; Job 21:7; Jeremiah 12:1-4)

2. **Seek to** _____.
(Job 1:1-5, 8; 2:3; Job 28)

Fear of the Lord

Wisdom

Awe Reverence Amazement Humility Trust	Knowledge of God's Word and God's Ways (designs)	Submission and Obedience	-Practical Insight into situations -Wise planning -Skillful Living
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3. **Recognize the** _____.
(Job 1:6-2:10; Ephesians 6:10-12)

Conflicts in the Biblical Story

- God** **↔** **Satan**
- Israel** **↔** **Nations**
- Individuals** **↔** **Individuals**

Day by Day in the Word

“Day by Day in the Word” is a tool we use to help us in the process of becoming more and more like Jesus and ultimately to bring glory to God. The biblical principle is: The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to bring about Christlikeness.

Monday-Tuesday

- Read Job 1:1-5, 8 and 2:3. Focus on Job’s character and his actions. How would you define “blameless, upright, fearing God, and turning away from evil”? How would you define “integrity”?
- What would it look like in your life if you were to “fear God”? Make plans today to put this into practice.
- For further work, what do you find out about Job’s concern for the spiritual welfare of his children? Can you identify any principles that would help you in your life situation?
- Further work: what else do you find out about Job from the following verses: Job 29:7-11, 12-17, 21-24; 31:13-15, 16-21, 32, 38-40.

Wednesday-Thursday

- Read Job 1:6-2:10 and make observations about Satan. What does his name mean? What does he do? Who is he accountable to? Any limitations? What observations can you make about God from this passage?
- What other observations can you make from the following passages: 1 John 3:8; Luke 22:31-32; 1 Timothy 1:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:23-26; 1 Peter 5:8-9; Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:12-19.
- Knowing that Satan and his demons are real and active on earth, what kind of an impact should that have on our lives? Develop a plan that would help you remain close to the Lord. Share this plan with a friend or your group and help one another to be accountable and to celebrate the victories you experience.

Friday-Saturday

- Today let’s work in the area of wisdom. Read Psalm 1 and James 1:2-8, 12-15 (and, 3:13-18) and identify the two pathways. The one pathway is the way of the righteous and the other pathway is the way of the wicked. Identify the source of wisdom, the behavior and attitudes (character traits), and the destiny of each pathway.
- Read Job 28 and contrast the search for earth’s treasures with the search for wisdom. Note Job 28:12, 20, 28. How does Job identify his wife? See Job 2:10.
- From what you’ve learned in your study of Job, how should we respond to the trials that come into our lives? What have you learned about trusting in who God is and how He works with us? Share this with someone to encourage them to keep following the Lord.