

JOB 3-8

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

As we get deeper into the book of Job, we get to see an example of what it means to **lament**. A lament is a passionate expression of grief or sorrow. Job lost everything and is crying out the Lord from a place of sadness and hurt. It is important that we learn that we also can bring our pain to God. God is near to us in our hurting! Job never abandons God or his faith, and we too get to lean on God when our lives feel heavy and difficult! Eliphaz, Job's friend, responds. He reminds Job of God's greatness and how even when we are corrected by God, we are blessed. Although Eliphaz was just trying to be a good friend, he made some mistakes along the way. Eliphaz did not understand that the suffering Job was experiencing was not a **consequence** of sin; it was a **mystery**! A consequence takes place as the result of an action, whereas a mystery is something that is impossible to understand or explain. Remember, God called Job "blameless!" He did nothing to deserve this.

In a good friendship, when you see your friend has made a mistake, the kind thing to do is to help them make a better decision. The issue is that Job did not do anything wrong, and Eliphaz did not fully believe that. Even though he was trying to help, Eliphaz caused Job to feel disappointed. Job thinks that God is present in his life with bad intentions, meaning that God would want to see Job hurting or grieving. We know that this is not true! As Christians, we know the truth about God's love, kindness, grace, and mercy for us. He does not want us to suffer! It may be hard to understand why Job thinks God wants to punish him, especially when we know the good news: that God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins! Job still remained faithful and did not turn away from God. This is such a great example of having faith!

We get to next hear the response of Job's friend, Bildad. Bildad does make some good points, like that God is righteous and that we can seek wisdom from previous generations (8:6). Bildad has two big misunderstandings: assuming that Job is suffering because of a mistake made by Job or his family and thinking he fully understands how God works. God works in mysterious ways, and while it is important that as Christians we get to know Him, we will never be able to fully understand God- and that's okay! What is important is that we strive each and every day to get to know God better, and that when times get hard, like they have been for Job, we do not turn away from God!

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is near and present, even in our suffering!
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job Laments to God • Eliphaz Responds to Job's Cry • Job Rebukes Eliphaz's Response • Job Misunderstands God's Intentions • Bildad Responds to Job
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job 3:25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ "What I always feared has happened to me. What I dreaded has come true." • Job 4:6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ "Doesn't your reverence for God give you confidence? Doesn't your life of integrity give you hope?" • Job 6:29-30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ "Stop assuming my guilt, for I have done no wrong. Do you think I am lying? Don't I know the difference between right and wrong?"
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A passionate expression of grief and sorrow • Consequence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The direct result or effect of an action • Mystery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Something impossible to understand or explain

Reflection Questions

1.	Have you ever <u>lamented</u> , or cried out to God in a hard time? What was that like?
2.	Think about the ways that Job's friends were there for him. What were some ways that, even though they made some mistakes, they were good friends to Job?
3.	Think about how Job's friends are trying to encourage him. What can you learn from them, and what would you do differently?