

JOB 21-26

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

This week, we read the last of Job's friends' speeches. Both Eliphaz and Bildad made their final remarks towards Job, but they still had it all wrong. Eliphaz attacked Job's character still arguing that Job must have sinned. Imagine how frustrating that must have been for Job! Eliphaz shows us he is unable to understand suffering apart from sin. Eliphaz offends Job when he says that not only Job has sinned, but that his sins are limitless (Job 22:5). He says that Job has walked the paths of the wicked, but Job knows this is not true. Job responds, saying, "I have stayed on God's paths." This reminds us that we should not make assumptions, especially ones that are insulting to the character of our friends.

When Bildad responds to Job, his speech is much shorter, but just as harsh! Bildad gets one thing right. He says that God is great, powerful, and just. However, Bildad's wisdom ends there. He then says that humanity is worth no more than worms to God. We know that this is not true! God loves us and cares for us deeply. For Bildad to say that we are "maggots," very incorrectly portrays how God feels about humanity, and is definitely not something kind to say to Job, who is facing so much suffering. God sees us as valuable!

Job's responses to his friends show that his trust in God's control is still present and active! Job feels upset that it seems the **wicked**, those who live their lives apart from God, get to live in peace. Although Job is frustrated, Job stands firm in his belief that any true **prosperity** is a gift from God, not something we can gain apart from Him. Prosperity means flourishing, good fortune, and thriving, which is quite opposite to what Job is experiencing. Still, even as Job sees those who are wicked living in prosperity, he makes a great statement of faith. He says that God is still the one in control of his destiny! Job is a great example of how even when we cannot understand God, we can have trust in His control!

Job very clearly paints a picture of God control, might, and power. Job reminds Bildad that God created night and day, established the horizon, calmed the raging sea, and made the heavens. Reflecting on the great things God has done before can help us remember His character. God was powerful and great when He formed the world. God is just as powerful and great now, even when we face suffering. Our circumstances don't change who God is! We can have trust in the character of God, and have faith that He is the one in control!

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We can have faith that God is in control!
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Zophar's Speech● Bildad's Speech● Job's Responses● Job Acknowledging God's Control
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Job 21:16<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ "They think their prosperity is of their own doing, but I will have nothing to do with that kind of thinking."● Job 23:14<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ "So he will do to me whatever he has planned. He controls my destiny."● Job 24:22<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ "God, in his power, drags away the rich. They may rise high, but they have no assurance of life."● Job 26:14<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ "These are just the beginning of all that he does, merely a whisper of his power. Who, then, can comprehend the thunder of his power?"
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Wicked<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ People who live their lives in sin, choosing to be apart from God● Prosperity<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Flourishing, good fortune, and thriving

Reflection Questions

1.	Now that we have heard all of Job's friends' speeches, what have you learned about how we should speak to our friends when they are suffering? Should we be like Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar?
2.	What is something you know God has done before, and what does that teach you about His character? (Think about Creation, the Gospel, etc!)
3.	What does it mean to you that God is in control of your life?