

***Growth Group Study – An introduction to the book of Job
Faith in a world of suffering (The Search for answers)***

13 June 2021 John Malcolm - Bible Reading: Job 28:1–28

Watch the bible project overview of Job

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQwnH8th fs>

What did you find helpful in this video?

What questions did it:

Answer for you?

Raise for you?

If a person who was in pain asked you why a loving God allows suffering, what might you say to them?

Why is it sometimes difficult to speak about issues of suffering to a person who is in the midst of suffering?

How might suffering cloud our vision of God?

Read John 14:23

Job didn't have the knowledge of Jesus which we do, so his understanding of suffering was limited.

What comfort might a suffering person find in this verse?

Why do you think the book of Job is listed among the Wisdom books rather than the history books of the bible?

The bible project video noted, *There are no clear historical settings, and it seems, the author doesn't want us to be distracted by historical questions, but to focus on the story of Job and the questions raised by his suffering.*

What difference might seeing Job as a Wisdom book make to the way we read it?

What does Job have in common with the Psalms, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes?

Read John 9.1-3

Much of the discussion among Job's friends is based on what scholars call the *Retribution Principle*. This basically means if you sin you will suffer, if you do good you will be blessed.

Can suffering always be linked to a person's actions? Give a reason for your answer.

Read Job 28:12–13, 23–24 & 28

What do these verses tell us about wisdom?

What is the relationship between knowledge and wisdom?

Is wisdom valued in our present age? What evidence supports your answer?

How might wisdom help us when we are going through a time of suffering?

Take a moment to pray for those you know who are in difficulty or suffering.

Helpful resources for our series in the book of Job.

Job – David Pawson

https://www.davidpawson.org/resources/resource/71?return_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.davidpawson.org%2Fresources%2Fseries%2Funlocking-the-new-testament

https://www.davidpawson.org/resources/resource/70?return_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.davidpawson.org%2Fresources%2Fseries%2Funlocking-the-new-testament

Derek Thomas: The Book of Job

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh70l-W79y4>

The Book of Job - Rabbi Yitzchak Breitowitz

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9LB47o4Q9M>