Job Chapter 1 "There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man
was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil. **2** Seven sons and three
daughters were born to him. **3** His possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand
camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and very many servants; and
that man was the greatest of all the men of the east. **4** His sons used to go and hold a feast in
the house of each one on his day, and they would send *word* and invite their three sisters to eat
and drink with them. **5** When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would
send *word to them* and consecrate them, getting up early in the morning and offering burnt
offerings *according to* the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned
and cursed God in their hearts." Job did so continually.
6 Now there was a day when the [b]sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD,
and Satan also came among them. **7** The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Satan
answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on
it." **8** The LORD said to Satan, "Have you [c]considered My servant Job? For there is no one like
him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from
evil." **9** Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? **10** Have You not made a
fence around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work
of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. **11** But reach out with Your hand
now and touch all that he has; he will certainly curse You to Your face." **12** Then the LORD said to
Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not reach out *and put* your hand on
him." So, Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.
13. Now on the day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their
oldest brother's house, **14** a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the
female donkeys feeding beside them, **15** and [h]the Sabeans [i]attacked and took them. They
also [j]killed the servants with the edge of the sword, and [k]I alone have escaped to tell
you." **16** While he was still speaking, another came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven
and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to
tell you." **17** While he was still speaking, another came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three
units and made a raid on the camels and took them, and [l]killed the servants with the edge of
the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." **18** While he was still speaking, another also
came and said, "Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest
brother's house, **19** and behold, a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the
four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people and they died, and I alone have
escaped to tell you."
20 Then Job got up, tore his robe, and shaved his head; then he fell to the ground and
worshiped. **21** He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there.
The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD."**22** Despite all this,
Job did not sin, nor did he blame God."

Discussion Questions

1 Sometimes trials are a direct result of our own bad choices -*but sometimes not*. Is one easier to deal with than the other?

2 *In trials, you either pull closer to God or pull away*. Do you agree with that statement?

3 What is the difference between Sympathy and Empathy?
How does Empathy effect your ability to benefit a friend who is hurting?

4 Can you recall a time when you were encouraged by someone when hurting?

5 Do we *always* need to quote scripture to encourage people?

6 Looking back at the challenges God has given you, can you still praise Him- *even if they didn't make sense?*

7 What has God taught you from difficult times?

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isa. 55:8-9)

Spiritual Warfare – *sometimes gets physical*

God knows what I am going through (Psalms 139:1-6)

"LORD, You have searched me and known *me*. **2** You know [b]when I sit down and [b]when I get up; You understand my thought from far away. **3** You [c]scrutinize my [d]path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. **4** Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, LORD, You know it all. **5** You have encircled me behind and in front, And placed Your hand upon me. **6** *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is *too* high, I cannot comprehend it. "

Happy to suffer *for Jesus* (Acts 5:40-42)

"… and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them (Peter and John) and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and *then* released them. **41** So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for *His* name. **42** And every day, in the temple and [ad]from house to house, they did not stop teaching and preaching the good news of Jesus *as* the Christ."

Share in the Sufferings of Christ (1 Peter 4 12-19)

"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though *something* strange were happening to you; **13** but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that at the revelation of His glory you may also rejoice and be overjoyed. **14** If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory, and of God, rests upon you. **15** Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; **16** but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. **17** For *it is* time for judgment to begin [m]with the household of God; and if *it begins* [n]with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? **18** AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, [o]WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER? **19** Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God are to entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right."

Trials make me Stronger

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. **4** Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (James 1:2-4)

It's all Good

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.' (Romans 8:28)

God knows what He's doing

"Consider the work of God, for who is able to straighten what He has bent?
On the day of prosperity be happy, but on the day of adversity consider:
God has made the one as well as the other, so that a person will not discover anything *that will come* after him." (Ecclesiastes 7:13-14)

God hears me

"The righteous cry and the Lord delivers them out of all their troubles." (Psalms 34:14)

Trust the Lord

"The steadfast of mind, Thou will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in Thee. For in the Lord, we have an everlasting Rock." (Isaiah 26: 3-4)

God is Delighted in You

"The steps of man are established by the Lord and He delights in his way. When he falls, He will not be hurled head long, for it is the Lord who holds his hand." (Psalms 37:23)

Jesus has Overcome the World

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

God Love You!

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. That whosoever might believe in Him should not perish, but have *Everlasting Life*" (John 3:16)