

We hope you had an incredible Easter, and that God is working in significant ways through the hope He has given! As we move into a new section of the Old Testament, we encounter new kinds of writings with different styles. We invite you to explore them with us in some fresh, new ways!

Not every book of the Bible speaks in the same way. Job does not move like a fast-paced story or a straightforward list of commands. It is a book of suffering, questions, poetry, silence, and the mysterious wisdom of God. That can make it feel intimidating—but it can also make it deeply personal.

This week we want to help you engage Job by learning how to listen carefully inside a wisdom book. As you read, pay attention to four things:

- Who is speaking?
- What are they feeling?
- What are they saying about God?
- How should we respond?

We'll call this method **Listening in Layers**. Grab your notebook and Bible, and let's get started.

Parents: One of the hardest things for kids and students to understand is when life feels out of control. This week's [Parent Prompt](#) will help you have honest, age-appropriate conversations about the difficulties of not understanding what is happening in life.

Week 14 Memory Verse | Job 1:21

Monday, April 6

Read: Job 1

Reflect: Job begins with loss most of us can barely imagine. Notice how the book begins: Job is described as blameless and upright. That

matters. It means the book of Job does not reinforce the simple formula of “bad things happen because you did bad things.”

This is part of the wisdom of Job. It teaches us to slow down when suffering enters the room. We often rush to explain, fix, label, or simplify our pain and suffering. Sometimes we even do it to others. Job invites us to do something that is both harder and holier - tell the truth.

As you read today, begin practicing Listening in Layers by answering these questions:

- Who is speaking?
- What is happening?
- What emotions are present?
- What is revealed about God?

Job’s first response is grief. Real grief. He tears his robe, shaves his head, falls to the ground, and then worships. That is a striking combination of reactions. Job is not at all pretending to be ok; he is devastated. Faithfulness is not the absence of sorrow. Faithfulness often looks like bringing your sorrow honestly to God.

Act: Draw a line down a page in your notebook. On one side write: “**What Job lost.**” On the other side write: “**How Job responded.**” Then answer underneath: What does this teach me about honest faith?

Pray: Father, teach me not to rush past pain or explain it away. Help me become honest in Your presence. When life feels confusing or heavy, help me turn toward You with truth and trust. Amen.

Tuesday, April 7

Read: Job 2:1-13

Reflect: Today, pay close attention not just to what happens, but to what is said. In a book like Job, learning to listen well means noticing

who is speaking and whether their words move toward wisdom or away from it.

This is one of the most important ways to read wisdom literature and the poetic dialogue of Job: not every sentence in the book is equally true in the same way. The Bible is truthfully showing us what people said, but that does not mean every claim they make is right and true. You are meant to discern what is good.

That matters in life too. Suffering brings a flood of voices: fear, shame, frustration, cynicism, even bad theology dressed up in spiritual language. Some voices push us away from God. Don't listen to those.

Others quietly sit with us in love, like Job's friends. They begin well. They weep. They tear their robes. They sit in silence for seven days. Before they ever start talking, they do one of the wisest things possible in the midst of suffering: they stay present. Love often looks less like good advice and more like steady presence.

Act: Make four simple notes from today's reading for each of the voices that are present in Chapter 2:

- **Speaker**
- **Tone**
- **Primary message**
- **Was it helpful?**

Consider: Who has been a wise, steady presence in my life? If you are able, send them a message of gratitude. Have I been that kind of presence for others?

Pray: Lord, help me discern the voices I listen to when I'm hurting. Make me wise enough to reject what pulls me away from You, and loving enough to be quietly present with people in pain. Amen.

Wednesday, April 8

Read: Job 3:1-26 & Psalm 13:1-6

Reflect: Job finally speaks, and what comes out is utter anguish. He curses the day of his birth. He says things that are raw, dark, and difficult. This feels uncomfortable to read, but it is important. Job teaches us that God's people do not need to hide their pain behind religious, spiritual-sounding language.

One of the gifts of the wisdom books, as well as the Psalms, is that they give language for suffering. Mature faith does not always sound polished and pious. Sometimes it sounds like lament. Job 3 and Psalm 13 both show us that crying out to God is not rebellion at all, when it comes from a heart still turned towards Him.

Notice the difference between complaint about God and lament to God. Lament is still reaching toward Him. Lament says, "I do not understand, but I am bringing this to You anyway."

Jesus Himself entered this kind of sorrow. He was "a man of suffering, and familiar with pain" (Isaiah 53:3). He is not distant from the cries of Job. He understands.

Act: Write a short lament prayer using these three lines (keep it simple and honest):

1. **"Lord, this is what hurts..."**
2. **"Lord, this is what I don't understand..."**
3. **"Lord, this is what I still choose to believe..."**

Pray: God, thank You that I do not have to edit my pain before I bring it to You. Meet me in honesty. Teach me to lament in a way that keeps my heart turned toward You. Amen.

Thursday, April 9

Read: Job 4:1-9; 8:1-7; 11:13-20

Reflect: Today we listened to Job's friends. Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar say many things that sound spiritual. Some of what they say even has traces of truth in it. However, they wrongly assume that suffering can always be explained by personal sin as some kind of simple cause-and-effect.

Pay attention: Biblical truth can be misused when it is disconnected from compassion and context.

Job's friends were confident, but they were not wise. They reduced the mysteries of God and life to a formula they could understand. They spoke as if they understood exactly what God was doing. They left no room for complexity, grief, or the hidden purposes of God.

That should challenge us. Have you ever said something technically true but at the wrong time? Have you ever tried to explain someone's pain to them when you should have simply loved them?

Wisdom is not just knowing accurate and true things about God. Wisdom is knowing how to speak truth with humility, timing, and love.

Act: Make two columns in your notebook:

- **Words that wound**
- **Words that heal**

From today's reading, write down a few examples of each kind of speech. Then ask: When people suffer, what kind of person do I tend to become?

Pray: Father, guard me from being careless with truth. Help me speak with humility, compassion, and wisdom. Teach me when to speak, when to stay silent, and how to love people well in their pain. Amen.

Friday, April 10

Read: Job 38:1–18; 40:1–5

Reflect: Following many chapters of questions, arguments, and pain, God finally speaks. Does God give Job a neat and orderly explanation? No. He gives Job a revelation of His greatness.

We want answers. Instead, God offers His presence and His wisdom. He reminds Job that there is a difference between being confused and being in charge.

There are not many more important lessons for walking well with God. The wisdom we see in Job does not lead to figuring everything out. This wisdom begins with reverence, trust, and the humble recognition that God is God - and we are not.

God's response is not cruel or condescending; it is steadying. Job has been drowning in grief and sorrow, and God lifts his eyes. He points Job to a world held together by divine wisdom far bigger than Job can see or comprehend.

There will be seasons of life when your deepest need is not an explanation, but a fresh and renewed vision of who God is.

Act: Take five slow minutes today and go or look outside if possible. Notice creation on purpose—the sky, wind, trees, clouds, birds, light, air. Let that become part of your reflection on Job 38. Then write one sentence revealing a renewed vision of God beginning with: **“God, You are...”**

Pray: Lord, I confess how small my perspective can be. Lift my eyes again. When I do not understand what You are doing, help me trust who You are. Amen.

Saturday, April 11 – Sunday, April 12**Read:** Job 19:23–27; Job 42:1–6; Romans 8:18–39

Reflect: Job does not end with shallow optimism. It ends with deeper devotion and full surrender. Job is humbled, but he is not crushed. He is honest, but certainly not hopeless. Along the way he makes one of the most stunning declarations in the entire book: “I know that my redeemer lives.”

That statement matters for this weekend. Job does not say, “I understand everything.” He says, “I know my Redeemer.” That is where wisdom leads us—not to full explanation, but to deeper trust in the God who lives, sees, and will ultimately make things right.

As Christians, we read that line with even greater hope because we know the Redeemer’s name: Jesus. He does not stand far away from suffering. He entered it. He bore it. He overcame it. While the book of Job does not remove mystery, it does train our hearts to trust the living God in the middle of it.

This weekend, your practice is not to solve the book. It is to rest in the Redeemer.

Act: Write a simple “Rules of Response” for suffering using three short statements:

- **When I suffer, I will...**
- **When others suffer, I will...**
- **When I don’t understand, I will...**

Then memorize or review Job 1:21.

Pray: Jesus, my Redeemer, thank You that You live. When I suffer, keep me near You. When I do not understand, anchor me in Your character. Make me wise, compassionate, and full of hope. Amen.