

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Genesis and Job, Answers to the BIG QUESTIONS of Life, Part One

Lesson Summary

This lesson introduces three foundational questions that shape the entire story of the Bible: Why we are here, what went wrong, and whether this life is all there is. Using the books of Genesis and Job, the lesson begins with God as Creator, establishing that human life is intentional, dependent, and designed for meaning and purpose. Job reinforces this truth when God speaks of creation as the basis of His authority and wisdom.

The lesson then turns to what went wrong. Genesis introduces Satan as the antagonist who challenges God's goodness and invites humanity to trust an alternative to relationship with God. Job expands our understanding by revealing Satan's limited power, his role as accuser, and his subordination to God. While Satan can cause real harm, his actions are always under God's control.

Finally, the lesson addresses the question of life after death. Job provides one of the earliest and clearest affirmations of bodily resurrection in the Bible. Job's confidence that he will see God in his own flesh shows that suffering and death are not the end of the story. This hope places all human suffering into an eternal perspective and anchors faith in God's ultimate redemption.

Ice-breaker Question

When people face suffering or loss, what questions about life or God do you most often hear them ask?

Discussion Questions for a Group; Journal Questions for Individual Study

1. Why is it significant that both Genesis and Job begin their answers to life's questions with God as Creator rather than with humanity?

2. How does understanding that we are created, not self-made, affect the way we think about purpose, fulfillment, and obedience to God?
3. In what ways does the book of Job expand our understanding of Satan beyond what we learn in Genesis 3?
4. Why is it important to recognize both the reality of Satan's influence and the limits of his power?
5. How do Satan's tactics, such as questioning God's words and intentions, still show up in everyday life today?
6. How does Job's confidence in life after death change the way we understand suffering and endurance in this life?

Life Application Suggestions, consider and respond

1. Reflect on areas of your life where you may be questioning God's goodness or wisdom. Compare those thoughts with what the Bible actually says about God's character.

2. When you experience accusation or discouragement, practice distinguishing between God's conviction, which leads to growth, and Satan's accusations, which lead to despair.
3. Consider how belief in bodily resurrection and eternal life might reshape the way you handle present pain, loss, or uncertainty.
4. Choose one Scripture from this lesson that affirms God's authority or eternal purposes and meditate on it throughout the week.

Prayer Focus

Thank God for creating you with purpose and for ruling with wisdom and authority. Pray for discernment to recognize truth from deception and for hope rooted in the promise of resurrection and eternal life, especially in times of suffering.