

Discussion Guide

Genesis & Job: answers to the Big Questions of Life, intro lesson

Brief Lesson Summary

This lesson introduces the opening of the Bible’s storyline: “In the beginning, God” (Genesis 1:1). From start to finish, the Bible is God’s story—His creation, His purposes, and His redemptive plan after humanity turns away from Him and believes Satan’s lie.

The lesson also explains why Job is read very early in chronological Bible reading plans, even though it appears near the middle of most Bibles. Reading Job early gives foundational truths that shape how we understand God, suffering, and spiritual reality.

A key emphasis is that Genesis and Job are best understood as true historical accounts, not fictional stories. The lesson argues Moses authored (or more precisely, edited) both books using God’s revelation and available records. Job’s reality is confirmed by later biblical references (Ezekiel 14:14 and James 5:11).

The lesson concludes by introducing several major “Big Questions of Life” that Genesis and Job help answer, while also reminding us that the Bible may not give every answer we want—but it gives something better: God Himself shows up.

Ice-breaker Question

What is one “big question” you have asked (or still ask) about life, suffering, or God?

Discussion Questions for a Group; Journal Questions for Individual Study

1. The Bible opens with the words, **“In the beginning, God.”**
What does it change about the way we view life if we truly believe the story begins with God rather than with people?

2. This lesson emphasizes that the Bible is not simply a collection of unrelated stories, but **one unfolding story** of God’s redemptive plan.

What are the dangers of reading the Bible as disconnected inspirational pieces rather than as one continuous story?

3. The lesson says the focus in Genesis is not mainly the “when and how” of creation, but the **Who**—the God who creates, cares, redeems, and restores.

How does focusing on the character of God strengthen faith when we face uncertainty or unanswered questions?

4. The lesson explains that reading Job early teaches three foundational truths:

- God’s sovereignty (He is King)
- Our relationship with God is not transactional
- The spiritual world is more active than we realize

Which of these truths do you most need to grow in right now, and why?

5. The lesson warns that if Job is taken as fiction, the book can lose much of its power.

Why do you think it matters that Job is presented as a real person who truly suffered?

6. The lesson ends by acknowledging that the Bible will not always give the answers we want, but something better: **God shows up.**

What does it mean in real life to say “God showing up” can matter more than getting explanations?

Life Application Suggestions, consider and respond

1. Start reading with humility.

As you read Genesis and Job, consciously remind yourself: “This story begins with God, not me.” Ask God to reshape your assumptions.

2. Practice non-transactional trust.

Identify one area where you feel tempted to “bargain” with God (expecting outcomes because of good behavior). Bring this honestly to Him in prayer.

3. Anchor suffering in God’s character.

When you encounter suffering (your own or someone else’s), resist rushing to explanations. Instead, focus on what this lesson teaches: God is sovereign and good, and He has eternal good in mind.

4. Engage the Big Questions deliberately.

Write down the six “Big Questions of Life” listed in the lesson. Choose one and journal:

“What do I currently believe about this question, and why?”

Prayer Focus

- Praise God for being the Creator and the Sovereign King over all things.
- Ask God to build a deeper trust that is based on His character, not circumstances.
- Pray for those who are suffering—especially those tempted to believe God has abandoned them.

- Ask God to help your group read the Bible as true history and as His unfolding redemptive story.