**Job and His Friends**

**A Bible Story From**

**Job 2:11–37:24**

**Bible Story Number: 1010120**

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**Job and His Friends**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

The life of Job is real. He was a real person facing real life hurts and challenges.

These events provide a rare view into the spiritual world. They give one answer to one of life’s most haunting questions: Why do bad things happen to good, even godly, people?

This answer does not apply to every situation; yet, it provides an important view of God and His interactions with one very real man. God lifts the curtain and allows us a glimpse behind the scenes. This account reveals who God is, His complete power, limitless control and incomprehensible ways. We gain a better understanding of what He means when He says: “For as heaven is higher than earth, so My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa. 55:9).

A word of warning is in order. Quotes from Job can be misleading sometimes. His friends (and even his wife) told Job things that are conventional religious wisdom but not godly advice. For example, on one occasion, Job’s wife told him: “Do you still retain your integrity? Curse God and die!” (Job 2:9). She spoke out of frustration and clearly gave Job ungodly advice.

Job’s friends had a sincere desire to help. However, they gave him advice based on widely held beliefs, rather than sound theology. One friend said, “If you are pure and upright, then He [God] will move even now on your behalf and restore the home where your righteousness dwells” (Job 8:6). His friend’s intentions were good, but his advice was not. Much of the book of Job is actually this ungodly advice from his friends.

Context is always essential to understanding the Bible. Job is filled with examples. Therefore, beware of any Bible verse presented in isolation. It is always wise to check it out yourself. Acts 17:11 commends the believers in Berea who did just that with the preaching of Paul and Silas: “The people here were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, since they welcomed the message with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.” God will help you when you have a genuine desire to hear from Him.

The question of when Job lived is not directly addressed in the book. His place in the chronology of human events is clearly not the focus. An educated guess about when these events occurred is, in the final analysis, just that, a guess. It is likely that Job lived sometime after Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but even that is not known with certainty. The stories about Job are included here in this volume because of what we learn about God.

**Story from the Bible**

**Job 2:11–37:24**

This is what the Bible says.

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That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* Who did Job’s friends blame for his problems? Why?
* How did Job respond to his friends?
* Do you think that Job’s friends were good friends? Why or why not?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.