

# VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

## Sunday morning teaching plan



Date: 4th May 2025

<b>TITLE:</b>	Job
<b>THEME:</b>	We have limited control over our lives, but God reigns supreme.
<b>AIM:</b>	We will experience suffering, how should we respond?

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The story of Job is not one that is often taught. It raises so many challenging questions. Such as; why does God allow Satan to cause suffering? Is God really ruling over the world? What have people done to deserve bad things happening? How can people worship God when there is so much evil in the world?

The book of Job explores these questions and concludes that God is sovereign and in control. We may not understand why suffering happens but we can rest assured that God is just. Our faithfulness will be rewarded. Maybe not in this life but certainly in the next!

### WARM UP

**Ooblek or porridge finding coins in the mess.**

### MAIN TEACHING

**Activity 1:** Watch [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_rk42S\\_QmKA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_rk42S_QmKA) (it is an AI produced film... but the best one I could find!)

1. What questions do you have about the story of Job? (see extra information section at end)
2. What was Job like at the start? **Job 1:1-3**
3. What did he lose? Why did he lose it?
4. How does Job respond to this pain and suffering? **Job 1: 20-22**
5. Does this kind of pain and suffering happen today? How might you respond?

**Key teaching point:** Life is not secure. It is precarious. We can turn from security to trauma overnight. Job was not to blame. Circumstances can overtake us. From a spiritual perspective there are times when Satan does attack us. He does want to stop us from trusting the Lord. **NB:** *This can be a sensitive area as everyone may have experienced loss or pain. We should be sensitive to this but at the same time allow personal comments to show how Job's story is mirrored in our lives.*

**Activity 2: EXPLAIN THAT...** A lot of the book of Job is a conversation between Job and his friends. They try to convince him he must have done something wrong for God to abandon him and treat him like this. Job denies it, affirming his innocence. In the end Job DEMANDS from God an explanation as to why he has been treated this way. God then decides to question Job to teach him something.

**READ: Job 38:1-8** This is a short section of a much longer passage about God's response.

1. What do you think God is trying to teach Job by asking these questions?
2. How do you think Job responded? (*See 40:3-5 for the answer. Also Job 42:1-5*)
3. How do you think you would have responded?
4. What picture does God paint of Himself in these chapters? (*Scan more of the dialogue if you need to.*)
5. What happens in the end? What does this reveal about God?

**Key teaching point:** Our knowledge, experience and wisdom are nothing compared to God. He is in total control. Job was trying to justify himself, by saying he did not deserve to be treated like that. In reality, however, he realises that he does not compare to God. God is able to do as he pleases. His suffering was not due to God's nature but Satan's influence and human failing. Sometimes it is very hard to understand why God allows suffering, we will never fully know. Our role is to have faith in His goodness, and trust He has our best interests at heart.

**Activity 3: Making it real.** It is VERY likely that you will never experience suffering like Job did. But you WILL experience suffering at some point during your life. We need to take this Old Testament book of Job and put it to good use in our life.

In the New Testament, James summarizes what a believer's theology of suffering should be. Turn to James 1.

**Read James 1:2-4**

1. Does it make sense that we should be joyful when suffering? Why/why not?
2. What does James say trials will do? (*Test our faith, produce perseverance, help us mature in our faith.*)
3. Did we find this true of Job? (*Most definitely.*)

Facing trials can be hard. Usually it's because we find ourselves asking "why?" Like Job, we wonder why things have happened to us.

## TAKEAWAY

Question:	What To Do:
Am I suffering a consequence of sin?	Confess your sin, repent.
Is Satan attacking me because of my faith?	Ask God for strength.
Is my suffering a result of a natural consequence for which I am not responsible?	Recognize we're in a sinful world. Both good and evil suffer, but God promises that one day all suffering will end.
Am I being trained for some special service?	Realize that your suffering can lead to great ministry opportunities. Ask God and others to help you realize these chances to help others who may suffer in the same way.

## EXTRA INFORMATION

It is possible they might ask about why God allowed Satan to cause suffering on Job. Difficult to answer, but the issue here is God is still in control despite what we may feel. When life is good it is easy to trust God (because you don't need to... Because you have everything). It is much more difficult to trust God when life is going wrong. Humans tend to blame God for suffering they experience, when in reality it is not God.

In the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they used their freewill to choose their own path. This led to suffering and death, the loss of the paradise God had created. Humans have been doing it ever since. Sometimes, other people's sinfulness causes us pain and suffering. It is not our fault, it is part of living in a broken and fallen world. Nature too is broken due to the disobedience of Adam and Eve, we will all experience suffering just by living on the planet. God is not to blame, He has promised to restore the world and remove pain and suffering in the future. For now we must trust in Jesus as God gradually restores the world through Him.