

How to Accept Hard Times from God (4/30/23)

Main Verses: Job 2:1-10

Key Verse: Job 2:9-10 [9]

'Takeaway': When things are hard & we're hurting, the Bible teaches how to see bad times as part of God's good plan.

Getting Started: Tell us about a hard time you've had. What happened & how did you respond to it?

READ Job 2:1-10 (or have older kids help read).



Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- Who's present at the heavenly "court"? (vv 1-6) Who, according to these verses, is ultimately responsible for Job's hard times?
- How did Satan ask to afflict (hurt, trouble) Job next?
- What did Job's wife say Job should do?
- How does Job respond?
- What can we learn from Job?

Elementary:

- Verses 1-6 report on a second gathering of this heavenly "court". What do we learn about it, & what has already happened to Job?
- Who was responsible (ultimately) for Job's hard times? What was God's direction to Satan in v 6?
- What did Satan do to Job next?
- How does Job's wife respond? How does Job respond?
- What can we learn from Job?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses :

Toddler/PreK:

- Satan has already attacked Job's family (all of his children died) with God's permission. Job did not sin, but responded faithfully after this happened.
- Satan asks for, & receives permission from God to hurt Job physically.
- Job is struck with sores (v 7). His wife tells him he should "curse God and die (v 9)."
- Job instead responds with trust in God's character (v 10b) & that he is in control, confident that this too is part of God's good plan.
- When we face hard times, we too, can trust in God, knowing he is a good God who always does what is best for us. He has proven both his goodness & that he is in control by sending Jesus to suffer on the cross to rescue us (& one day, even from all suffering).

Elementary:

- With God's permission, Job's children have all died by the hand of Satan. Yet, Job continued to trust God & not sin (Job 1:22).
- In this second meeting in heaven, Satan asks for & receives permission to attack Job physically, & inflict him with painful sores all over his body.
- God's perimeter for this—"only spare his life" (v6b) – is not a mercy, but an integral part of the test. Sometimes, life's most painful & difficult hardships are found when death is not part of them. This, for Job, was the ultimate test of faith.
- Already deep in grief (Job 1:20,21), Job is struck with the painful sores.
- Job's wife's rhetorical question about Job's integrity seems to relate to the heavenly dialogue. God commends Job for his integrity (v3b), but she asks her husband if he still holds onto it while encouraging him to respond the way Satan wants him to ("curse God and die").
- Job responds to her by reminding her we receive from God what he sends us, & by warning her to not be foolish.
- Job responds with trust in God's character & that he is in control (10b), confident that all that happens is part of God's good plan.
- When we have hard times we can trust God, knowing he is a good God who always does what's best for us, even when we don't understand. He has proven both his goodness & that he is in control by sending Jesus to suffer on the cross in order to rescue us (& one day, even from all suffering).

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God. Thank him for being a good God we can always trust. Thank him that he always does what's best for us, even when we don't understand, & even when he uses hard times to grow us. Thank God for sending Jesus to suffer on the cross to rescue us from our me-centered lives. Ask him to help you to trust him more each day.

(Elementary) Talk to God. Thank him for being a good God we can always trust. Thank him that he always does what's best for us, even when we don't understand, & even when he uses hard times to grow us. Thank him that he has shown us that he is good & in control by sending Jesus to suffer & die on the cross to rescue us from our me-centered lives. Ask God for the faith to believe him & trust him in all things.