

JOB

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Job 1

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we are shaking things up and breaking down Job Chapter 1.

I love learning about God. I love learning the Old Testament. But I can only take so many days of reading very detailed building instructions. And just to give you all a heads up, there are more detailed days to come over the next few books. So we are going to start mixing things up a little.

The book of Job is actually believed to have taken place back in the time that Genesis did around the time of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The chapter starts by telling us that in the land of Uz lived a man named Job who feared God and avoided evil. He had seven sons and three daughters and he was rich, really rich. He had tons of flocks and servants and was the greatest man in all the east.

His sons liked to throw huge parties for their birthdays that went on for days and they would invite all the sisters and brothers. When the party was over, Job would make a sacrifice for each one of his kids and arrange for them to be purified, to kinda wipe the sin slate clean just in case they did something they shouldn't have while partying.

One day, angels came to talk to God and Satan came with them. God asked Satan, "Where have you come from?" Now since God is all knowing, I like to think that this was God's way of telling Satan he was looking rough! Like, "WOW, where have you been because you don't look so great!" Mainly because it makes me giggle to think that's how it went down. Anyways, Satan told God that he had been roaming the earth. God said to Satan, "Did you see my man, Job? There is no one else like him on earth. He is a man of good character who fears God and stays away from evil."

Satan said back something along the lines of, "Of course he respects you. You keep him safe and bless him with all this stuff. But if you took everything away from him, Job will curse you to your face." God replied, "Very well then, everything he has is in your hands, but do not lay a finger on the man himself." Then Satan left.

One day when Job's kids were having a party at the oldest son's house, a messenger came and said, "The oxen were plowing the field and the donkeys were nearby and the Sabeans attacked;" who were a group of people they clearly were not friends with. The messenger continued, "They took all the animals and killed all your servants. I'm the only one who escaped to tell you."

While that guy was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The fire of God came and burnt up all the sheep and all the servants. I was the only one who escaped to tell you.” God may have made fire or lightning, but we know He wasn’t the one aiming it at Job. While he was still speaking, another messenger came up and said, “The Caldeans, (another group of people) attacked and took all your camels and killed your servants. I am the only one who escaped to tell you!”

And while that one was still speaking, yet another messenger came up and said, “Your sons and daughters were all at the oldest son’s house having a party when a strong wind came and made the house collapse on them and they all died. I was the only one who escaped to come tell you.” At this, Job tore his clothes and shaved his head, which is to be expected because he was grieving. But then, he fell to the ground in worship saying:

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,
and naked I will depart.
The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away,
May the name of the LORD be praised.”

In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God of doing wrong.

There are so many things this book can teach us. For today, we are only going to focus on a few of them. The first one being what the conversation between Satan and God tells us. Satan can still only do what God allows. Even evil has to answer to God! God has ultimate control of everything! So the next question most people have is, “Well then why does God allow it to happen?” Excellent question!! We’ll come back to it. The other thing I want to point out is that you will hear people say, “God can’t be in the presence of sin.” Like sin is to God what kryptonite is to Superman. But that doesn’t seem to be accurate since God is having a conversation with Satan, who is overflowing with sin, and He doesn’t appear to be weakened at all! In fact, God is still SO powerful that Satan basically has to get His permission before he is allowed to do anything.

Ok.. so now... why would God allow bad things to happen to his children. Well, there are lots of reasons. Some that we will never understand since we are so limited in what we can know and understand. But throughout the chapters we are going to talk about some of the reasons we do know. Question for you all - If you give gifts to a person all the time and you do everything they want you to do, they are probably pretty nice to you. You all would probably be friends. But what happens when you don’t give them everything they want or follow every request or demand? It’s most likely that one of two things are going to happen - they will either drop you like you’re a hot potato or they will

say, “Okay, I still love you for you and not for what you give me.” Which friend would you want? The surface level friend, who is only friends with you to get stuff, or the friend that you know will still be there to love you when you are going through hard times? The answer is pretty clear; especially since one isn’t really a friend at all.

All Christians will face hard times. We live in a fallen and sinful world and there are consequences. But how Christians react when they go through hard times really shows you what's in their heart. Do they blame God and turn away from Him? Or do they grieve and hurt, but still run to their Father God because they love and trust Him knowing that all though it doesn’t always feel like it, His plans are good. And He’s an Amazing God.

Job 2

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Job Chapter 2.

When we last left Job, God had allowed Satan to take all Job's belongings and even kill all his children. Job was upset, but he still fell to the ground and praised the LORD and did not accuse God of doing anything wrong.

This chapter starts off much like the last one did. One day the angels came before the LORD and Satan came with them. And the LORD said the same great line, "Where have you come from?" Satan replied, "From roaming the earth." Then the LORD said, "Did you see my man, Job? There is no one else like him on earth. He is a man of good character who fears God and stays away from evil. And he still is, even though you tried to turn him against me and ruin him for no reason." Satan replied, "Skin for skin! A man will give all he has for his own life! But stretch out your hand against his skin and bone, and he will curse you to your face." In other words, Satan is saying, if Job was sick or in pain, he would turn against God. So the LORD said, "Very well. He is in your hands, but you can't kill him." Then Satan left and went and caused painful sores to cover Job from his feet to the top of his head. And Job took a piece of broken pot to scrape himself with as he sat in ashes. I understand him sitting in ashes because that was a sign of mourning. But how painful and awful must those sores have been to think scraping them with a broken pot sounds like a good idea? That sounds horrible!

To make things even worse, Job's wife came out and said to him, "Are you really trying to still act honorable? Just curse God and die!" Wow! Not the words of a kind and supportive spouse. Luckily, Job was wise and told her, "You are talking like a foolish woman! Should we just accept the good things from God and not the bad?" And in all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

Then, three of Job's friends heard of all the trouble Job was having and decided to meet together to travel to Job to support and comfort him. Their names are a mouthful so we are going to call them El, Bildad and Zophar. When they saw Job from a distance, they hardly recognized him because he was in such bad shape and they began to cry. They tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads; also signs of mourning. Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and nights. No one said a word to him because they saw how much he was suffering.

Are you "the glass is half full" or "the glass is half empty" kind of person? I don't think I'm really more one than the other. I have a tendency to view things as negative or positive based on my past experiences. Part of me reads the conversation between Satan and God and thinks, "What is happening?! Why would God allow any of this to happen?"

Why would He give Satan permission to hurt one of His children?! And did Satan just trick God into getting permission to do what he wanted to do? Was God just like, “No Satan. Job does love me! And I’ll prove it to you! You can do what you want to him as long as you don’t kill him and you’ll see how Job still loves me!”.

But then, once again, I think back to my children. I often think back to different experiences I had with my kids when I try to understand who God is for a couple reasons. 1) Because I have raised multiple children and that’s what I know and 2) because I think we often act... and think... just like toddlers, when it comes to viewing and judging how our loving Father God is running the show. I know this may come as a shock, but every single one of my boys could be difficult at one time or another; especially when they were toddlers. They would throw a fit when I wouldn’t let them do things like stick their finger in the electrical outlet, or wear shorts and sandals when it was 10 degrees outside or eat a bucket of candy for dinner.

Then there were other times when I killed their independence and was controlling by continuing to hold on to the steering wheel while they sat on my lap pretending to drive. They would get so mad when they realized my hand was still on the steering wheel and they would try to hit or push it away. If you looked at my parenting skills through their eyes, I’m sure they thought I was the WORST PARENT EVER at times. But they just didn’t know enough to realize they don’t know anything!

That's how I feel our relationship with God is at times. We think He is being mean and controlling when really, He is showing us love and we just don’t know enough to realize it, because in the great scheme of things, we really don’t know much at all! Heck, it wasn’t too long ago that we discovered the world really isn’t flat and there are a lot more galaxies out there! We are all toddlers!

God isn’t being tricked by Satan. God doesn’t need to prove Himself. Sometimes what Satan wants to do actually fits into God’s plan. I bet if we eavesdropped on heaven’s conversation during the whole Joseph situation back in Genesis, we would have heard God telling Satan, “OK. You can let Joseph’s brothers be mean to him and sell him into slavery, but they can’t kill him.” And look how that situation turned out!

The fact is, sometimes God allows, what we consider, “bad things” to happen for His plan and to get us where we need to be. But like Job, we need to remember that no matter what situation we are going through, good or bad, God is in control... over everything! And no matter what we are feeling at the moment, we can know and trust that He loves us and He’s an amazing God.

Job 3

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Job Chapter 3.

Job has had all his wealth taken from him, all his children died, he has painful sores covering his whole body and his wife has been less than supportive. He had some friends come to support him and they all sat in silence for a while, but things are looking pretty bleak for Job and it is weighing hard on him. So finally, Job speaks and voices his disparity in this chapter.

This is also written kind of like a poem, so it finds multiple descriptive ways to say the same thing. It kind of sounds repetitive when summarizing it, but here we go.

Job cursed the day he was born saying:

May the day that I was born and the night when it was said, "It's a boy" no longer exist. I want that day to turn to darkness and God not care about it and have no light ever shine on that day.

The darkness and shadows can have it back. A cloud can settle over it and have darkness take all its light.

That night, darkness should take it. It should no longer be included in the days of the year or in any of the months. That night should not produce anything. There should be no shouts of joy in it.

Anyone who curses days should curse that day. May they call on the sea monster Leviathan to swallow up that day.

All the morning stars should go dark. Mornings should wait for daylight to no purpose and never see the first rays of the sun because that day allowed me to be born instead of keeping me from this trouble.

Why couldn't I have just died when I was born?

Why was there someone to raise and nourish me so that I lived?

If they hadn't, I would be lying in peace right now and at rest with the kings and rulers of earth who lived long ago and whose houses are now destroyed even though they had gold and filled their houses with silver.

When I was born, why was I not just put right into the ground without ever seeing the light of day?

Dead in the ground, the wicked stop causing trouble and the tired are able to rest.

Even slaves can relax and not hear the slave drivers yell at them.
Both those that were great on earth and those that were not are all there and the slaves are free.

Why does daylight shine on those who are miserable and bitter? They wish for death but it doesn't come. They want death more than hidden treasure and would be glad and rejoice when they finally die.

Why is life given to a man who no longer sees the purpose in it and is trapped.

Sighing in hopelessness has become like my food and my groans like water. It's all I have to live on now.

What I feared and dreaded has happened to me.
I have no peace, no quietness, no rest. I only have trouble and misery.

Poor Job. This guy is downright miserable. So much so, that he just wishes he was either never born or that he would just die. He's lost all his earthly possessions, he lost those he loved and he's in a great deal of pain. But even the way he is handling his misery shows his noble character and wisdom. For one thing, Job doesn't want to be in his current situation, but He still hasn't blamed God or accused Him of doing wrong by allowing all this to happen to him. And even though he wishes he would die, he still doesn't try to take control of the situation or take matters into his own hands.

There was another part of this chapter that stood out to me. Most of Job's speech said the same thing in different ways; he was miserable and he wished he didn't exist. But there were a few verses that revealed more about what Job considered important. He talked about Kings who were once rich but are now dead while their earthly possessions lay in ruin. Then he talks about how those who had a hard life like slaves are at peace and able to rest. This seems to say that even in his agony, Job is fully aware that neither a person's earthly possessions nor their earthly position or title holds any value when they die. That's a very humble statement from a man who has had an abundance of wealth for a good portion of his life. He didn't feel like he was entitled to or owed all these earthly belongings. And although he might have enjoyed them while he had them, he is well aware of the fact that when you die, you can't take any of that with you! It all rots away into ruin. But what Job does value is God. Which is a good call, because our God is eternal and He's amazing!

Job 4

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Job Chapter 4.

In the whole last chapter, Job was saying that he wished he was either never born or that he would die. And if you are thinking things couldn't get worse for Job, you're wrong. Poor Job. Do you remember Job's friends, El, Bill and Zo who were sitting quietly with him? Well, Job is about to long for those days.

El decides to open his mouth and although I'm sure in his heart he thinks he's just trying to help Job; I'm sure Job doesn't feel very supported at all. El starts talking to Job, and says something along the lines of: "If someone was to talk to you, would you be patient enough to listen? Because after seeing what's happening, who could not say something to you? Think about how many people you have taught and how you have given them strength. Your words have supported and strengthened so many who have messed up so that they would walk upright again and do the right thing."

"But now you are in the same situation they were and you are all upset. Shouldn't your belief in God be your hope? Think about it, Job. Who has died when they were innocent? When were the righteous and innocent ever destroyed? From what I have seen, those who plant seeds of evil and trouble, that's what they grow and get back. You may think you are like a lion. Lions roar loudly and they talk a big game but the lion's teeth are broken and it dies because it can't eat and its kids are scattered."

"In my dreams, a word was brought to me like a whisper to tell me things. I was scared and trembling as a spirit went past my face. It made the hair on my body stand up. The spirit stopped flying around, but I still couldn't tell what it was. It stood in front of me and I heard a quiet voice saying, 'Can a human be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than the one who made him?' If God doesn't trust His servants and He holds His angels accountable, how much more will He do it to earthly man who can be crushed like a bug. They can die and be broken into pieces so that no one even notices. And they die without wisdom."

El has a lot of words for Job. We're going to hear more of them in the next chapter also. Unfortunately, not all his words and opinions are correct. He is right that a lot of times, people who pursue evil and create trouble, usually get it back, at some point at least. But since we got to eavesdrop on heaven's conversation, we know that this is not the reason Job is having all these issues.

El is also right that a human can't be more righteous than God but: 1) It seems he added his own ideas or opinions into what he thought the spirit was trying to say, and 2) We don't know who sent that spirit.

Which brings us to another point. Before someone speaks like they have a word from God, it's best to make sure it's actually God talking. The Bible talks about this many times and there are some pretty steep consequences for acting like you are God's mouthpiece, or that you are speaking for God when God didn't say what you are claiming He said. And guess what, since we have a 24/7 open door to God, if we have any questions about what others are saying, we can always go to God and ask Him! He wants us to come to Him, because He's an amazing God!

Job 5

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Job Chapter 5.

Job's friend El spoke all through chapter 4 telling Job that he must have done something wrong so God is punishing him. We get to hear more of his thoughts and opinions today. The chapter starts with El telling Job that bad attitudes and actions lead to bad things such as bad things happening at home, children not being safe and wealth and belongings being taken. I'm sure that felt like a personal hit to Job since he lost his children and his wealth and things clearly aren't good on the home front. El goes on to say that hard times just don't pop up from nowhere, but man creates and finds trouble.

El then acts as though God is a judge who has found Job guilty and that is why he is experiencing all of these issues. So he tells Job he needs to urgently plead his case to God. El describes God saying that He performs acts that are so mind blowing that people cannot even understand how it's possible. And he does so many of these miracles that they can't even be counted.

He sends rain to the earth and onto the countryside. Those that are humble and viewed as not significant, He lifts them high and those that are sad, He lifts to safety. He stops the plans of people trying to act deceitfully so they are not successful. He catches those who try to scheme in their own trap and darkness comes over them even though it's daytime. He saves the needy from those that are powerful and want to cause them harm so that the poor have hope and injustice is stopped. El goes on to say to Job, "The man who God corrects is blessed, so you should not hate the things that God does to correct you."

"God may wound, but he also closes wounds. His hands injure, but they also heal. He can rescue you from bad situations so you will not be harmed. When there's a famine and there is no food, He can save you from death and he can save you from the sword of another in battle. And if you are right with God, you will be protected from what others say and won't need to fear God when destruction comes. But instead, you will laugh at famine and destruction and not need to worry about things on earth that can harm you, because the land and the wild animals will not give you trouble and you will be at peace. You will know that your house is safe and secure. When you look at your belongings, you will find everything is there and nothing is missing. You will know that your children will continue to grow and have more children until you have so many descendants that they are like the grass of the earth. You will die in peace having had a full life."

El finishes it by saying “We have examined this and it is true. So hear it and apply it to yourself.” Either El has a mouse in his pocket or he is saying that he has been talking to the other friends that are there and they all agree that Job did something bad and God is upset so Job is being punished and Job needs to recognize what he did wrong, stop doing wrong, and ask God for mercy and to stop punishing him.

Once again, El has some truths mixed with some untruths. God can do all the things El says. He can cause the wicked to suffer from their own schemes and He can protect his children... But just because He can doesn't mean He always will. El seems to have a hard time wrapping his mind around a concept that we often struggle with. Which is the fact that our good God allows bad things to happen to His children sometimes. Not as a punishment, but for reasons only God knows. We know this because once again, we were let in on the conversation that took place between God and Satan. God isn't punishing Job; He's testing him and building character. And sometimes, the best way to build and improve is through a painful situation.

It makes me think of working out. Do you know the way muscles get bigger and stronger? In order to gain strength and muscle, one has to continuously push themselves to their limit, past where they are comfortable, to a place where they are struggling. A heavier weight, another pull-up... it hurts. And sometimes that pain lingers in your muscles for days. In fact, anyone trying to gain strength welcomes that pain because in order for your muscles to get bigger, you have to push them to the point that they microtear. It's only when your muscles experience this little tearing that they then heal and grow in the process. They grow through pain. And much like our muscles, God can use painful situations to help us grow, our character, our faith, our relationships. So although no one likes to be in pain, when we are going through those tough times, we can hold on to the fact that God can use it to help us grow and He can use it to His glory. He's an amazing God.

Job 6

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking Job Chapter 6.

In the last two chapters of Job, El (one of Job's three friends that came to "support" him) was saying that Job must have done something wrong because bad things don't just happen to good people. So surely God was punishing him for something he did.

In this chapter, we get to hear Job's reply. Job starts by saying how much misery he is in. He says if his misery could be weighed, it would outweigh all the sands of the sea. He continues on to say that God is pointing poisonous arrows at him and they are hurting his spirit. Job then tells El that his advice is distasteful, like food with no salt. He won't even touch it because his advice makes him sick. Job continues to state that he wishes God would just give him what he longs for, which is death, so his misery would end. He has no strength left to hope and no reason to be patient. He's not as strong as if he were made of stone and metal and he has no power to help himself.

Basically, he is saying that El is wrong, confessing to God is not his hope and he does not find joy in the situation because he didn't do anything wrong and there is nothing to confess to change his situation. There is nothing he can do to change his suffering. And then he tells his friend what he thinks about him showing up there only to condemn him. He tells his friends a man in the situation he is in should have the support of his friends, but that they are completely unpredictable. He compares them to a stream that overflows when it is cold outside, but when it's hot outside and the water is really needed, the river dries up. He says that travelers go to the river to be restored, but instead they have to turn away and die because the water they need is not there. And anyone who goes to the river with the hope of finding water will be disappointed. That's what his friends are. Like a river that is dry when you really need its water to help get you through. Job says they have proven to be no help at all.

Job goes on to ask his friends if he has ever asked them for anything, for money or to save him from his enemy. He said that if they actually had anything they could teach him or could actually show him what he has done wrong, then he would just be quiet and listen. But they aren't saying anything to help him and when he tells them he has done nothing more to deserve this punishment, they don't listen to him! He states that they are so wrong that next, they will do more wrong things like try to buy orphaned children and treat them poorly or they would sell their own friends just to gain something they want. But instead of going down that path, they should stop and really take the time to look at him and listen to what he is saying because he would not lie to them. But instead of being unjust and making quick false judgments about what they think Job is

doing wrong, they should consider his integrity and not spread false tales such as Job did something wrong and that's why he is being punished.

This chapter might be another reason why God allows us to see things that happened to Job. Even though the whole situation is horrible for poor Job, we get the benefit of learning from it. And one of the things we learn is how to, or not to, be a good friend to those that are going through hard times. Instead of judging them and jumping to conclusions about what they might have done to get themselves in this situation, it's best to be supportive and not open your mouth to voice your opinion. We should go to God and ask Him how best to help others in need instead of just assuming we know what's best because God actually does know what's best. He knows everything! And He will lead us down the right path because He's an amazing God.

Job 7

On this episode on Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Job Chapter 7.

In the last chapter, we heard Job's reply to his friend El. In this chapter, Job talks to God. Job starts out by stating that a man's days on earth are numbered and hard. But even a slave gets to look forward to the evening when he can rest and a man who is hired to do a job and works hard, looks forward to the money he will be paid. But Job goes on to say that he doesn't have anything to look forward to. He's just miserable. When the nights come, he is so miserable with his worm-infested wounds and scabs that he just tosses and turns and wonders how much longer it will be until dawn when he gets up. There is no rest.

Job says that his days are without hope. And then he starts to talk to God personally. Job tells God to remember that compared to eternity, the days he spends on earth are just a breath and he feels he will never see happiness again. Job says that soon he will be dead and whoever is looking for him will not find him. He will not be at his house because death will be final. Job continues to say that because he will be dead soon, he will speak what is on his mind while he still has the chance.

He will let it be known that his spirit is suffering in pain and that he will continue to speak complaints from the bitterness that is in his soul. Then Job asks God, "Am I some awful creature like a sea monster that You feel You have to constantly watch and guard me to keep me under control? Even when I think I will find comfort in sleep, I have nightmares."

Job says he would rather be strangled to death than live another day to deal with this agony that has taken over his human body. Job continues to say to God, "I despise my life. I would not live forever. Leave me alone; my days have no meaning." "Who am I that You are so focused on me? That You constantly watch me; You test my every moment? Will you never focus somewhere else or leave me alone for even an instant? If I have sinned, tell me what I have done. Why have You made me Your target? Have I become a burden to You? Why will You not excuse me from any offense I may have done and forgive my sin? I will die soon, and when You look for me then, I won't be here to find anymore."

I can't imagine this level of suffering and despair. It's one thing to have pain so intense and constant that you would rather die than continue to experience it. But Job's spirit is in that much pain too. He thinks God, whom he loves and has followed, now looks at him cruelly. Can you imagine thinking that someone you love thinks so poorly of you

that they desire to torture you? Job's body, heart and spirit are all broken. But I love that he is honest with God. And honestly, there is no point in ever trying to sugar coat things when talking to God, because He knows our hearts and thoughts anyway. So we should be honest with ourselves and Him and ask Him to change whatever thoughts or feelings we are ashamed of or feel we need to hide from Him. Because He can change us! And... He's an amazing God.

Job 8 & 9

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Job Chapter 8 and 9.

In the last two chapters, Job was responding to El and talking to God. But now it's Bil's turn to talk. Just like El, Bil thinks that Job has done something wrong and he is being punished. In fact, Bil even went so far to say that Job's kids were sinful and that's why God allowed them to die. Which, I would imagine, made Job want to punch him right in the nose. He continued to say the same old story that if Job would plead to God and God found him to be upright, God would restore him. Bil tells Job that if he doesn't believe him, he should ask some of the men from older generations and they will tell him! Bad things don't just happen to good people unless they did something bad. Then Bil makes another wrong assumption by assuming that Job is relying on something other than God. He says just like plants need water to grow healthy and big, man needs God. And just like plants with no water, a wicked man who doesn't seek God will wither and die. Bil continues to say that relying on something else other than God is like leaning on a spider web and relying on it to hold you up. Then Bil encourages Job to go to God and ask for forgiveness and God will once again give him laughter and all of his enemies will be shamed.

So now Job has two friends that are falsely accusing him of wrongdoing; blaming him of putting his faith in something other than God and saying his children deserved to die. At this point, I would ask my so-called friends to start heading home and refrain from talking to me anymore.

In Job chapter 9 Job replies again. Job said he knows that some of what Bil was saying is true. But compared to God, no man can be righteous and Job still hadn't done anything out of character to bring this all on himself. But Bil is right that God does have all the knowledge and all the power and no man can battle against him and come out unharmed. God can shake the earth, overturn mountains, and cause the sun and stars to stop shining with one word. He is the creator of all. If He decides to be angry, who can argue with him or stop him?

Job continued, "I haven't done anything wrong to be punished like this, but all I can do is ask Him for mercy. But even if I asked Him again, I don't think he will listen to me, I think he would continue to make my misery even worse. If it is a matter of strength, He is mighty. If it's a matter of justice, even though I have lived a good life, God is determined to condemn me. Although I haven't done anything, I hate my own life. That's why I say He destroys both the blameless and the wicked."

“God mocks the sadness of the innocent when it comes to death, and He allows the wicked to receive good things. I can pretend to be happy but you all already think I’m guilty and I’m being judged so why even bother to put on a fake smile. And I can’t confront God like I could any other man in court. There is no one to speak on my behalf to God so that He stops striking me. If I had someone to mediate between us, I could speak up to Him without fear, but as of right now, I fear Him.”

We are going to hear a lot of the same throughout Job. A lot of back and forth between Job and his friends. But there are still some things we can learn. Especially about being a friend to those grieving. There are times that Christians deliberately do things that they know are not in line with God’s will. And yes, as brothers and sisters in Christ, we should lovingly point them back to what the Bible says. However, there is no room for us to judge others. It’s kind of like you and a friend going to a birthday party and you both present gifts to the birthday boy. He opens your friend’s gift first and in the bag is a whole bushel of rotten and stinky apples. It’s just gross. So, you begin to mock your friend for giving such a horrible gift!! Why would he even do that?! It’s just wrong. And then you present your gift, bragging of course because you didn’t bring gross, rotten fruit; you just brought a bouquet of dead and wilted flowers instead! So much better, Right? NO! It’s not! They are both not good! That’s kind of what judging others for their sin is like. We are all sinful. We all deserve death. Bringing “less” sin to God, doesn’t make you any better than the one who brings a whole bushel of it. The great thing is, no matter how much sin we come to God with, If we ask Him for forgiveness, He will forgive us, because He’s an amazing God!

Job 10 - 14

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Job Chapters 10-14.

In the last chapter, Job was talking to his friends and God. Job continues in this chapter saying much of what we've heard before. He doesn't like his life and he wishes God would tell him what he did wrong to deserve this. Then he starts getting a little sassy with God asking if the plans of the wicked and him being miserable just makes God happy. Job then tells God that He knows Job isn't guilty, but that no one can rescue him out of God's hand. Good thing God has an abundance of patience. Job continues saying he knows God's hands made him, so he asks God why He now wants to destroy him. If God dislikes him so much, why did he even bother making him? Job is basically searching for a reason that this is happening to him. He wants it to make sense. And often, if our little human minds can't make sense of what's happening, we sometimes jump to getting irritated with God or blaming Him for allowing bad things to happen. Job goes on to ask God to just leave him alone so he can have a minute of rest and peace before he dies.

In Chapter 11, Zo is up at the mic. He says that Job is basically mocking God by saying that his "beliefs are flawless". Which Job never actually said. Zo says someone needs to set Job straight and he wishes God would speak to Job, because God would speak against him and enlighten him with some wisdom. Zo says true wisdom has two sides and God has even forgotten some of Job's sin. Well that's true. I mean, God doesn't have selective memory loss, but when He forgives, He does forgive fully to the point where it's like the sin is not only forgotten, but it never happened. God isn't going to bring it back up our sins and rub it in our face later down the road. He's merciful and each day is a new day.

Zo continues to say that God is so Almighty and He has so much depth that no one could ever fully understand Him or oppose Him because He is all knowing. He also says God sees deceitful men and takes notice of them, but a man who isn't very smart can't all of a sudden become wise just like a donkey can't give birth to a man.

Wow, this guy seems angry! He accuses Job of mocking God and wishes God would bring more harm to him; then he accuses Job of hiding wrongdoing; then he tells Job he isn't very smart. After beating up Job up a little bit with words, he says the same thing the others do. If Job will confess his sin and seek God, then God will restore him and give him hope again. Otherwise Job's only hope will come with his last dying gasp of breath.

Job replies somewhat sarcastically in Chapter 12. He tells his friends that surely wisdom will die with them. As in, you guys are just so wise; clearly no one can be as wise as you all! Obviously not meaning it. He goes on to tell them that they are not better than he is. He also says that even though they have a life at ease at the moment, they sit back and act disrespectful towards Job and his misfortune and laugh at him.

Job goes on to basically tell his friends that he doesn't need them to tell him who God is and what He can do. Job says that all the animals and birds can even teach who God is and tell of His power. Job then goes on to give examples of who God is and what He can do. In summary, He is saying God has all the wisdom, all the power and nothing compares to Him.

In Chapter 13, Job states that he has seen all what God is capable of and what his friends know, he also knows. He follows it up by saying again that they are not better or more wise than he is. Job tells the three that he doesn't need to hear from them, he needs to hear from God. Then he blames his friends for basically lying and making up things and pretending that they are doing it all for God. But if God examined them, God would have some not so nice things to say about what he finds in them and they would be terrified of God because He was looking at them and judging them. Then he tells his friends to stop talking because it's his turn. He says that he will defend himself against God because he hasn't done anything. Job says that no one can charge him with doing wrong, because he hasn't done anything wrong, so he wants God to take His hand off him (meaning stop causing bad things to happen to him) and he wants God to stop terrifying him. Job then asks God again why He won't talk to him or tell him what he's done to deserve this. He asked God, "Why are you hiding your face from me?"

In Chapter 14, Job talks about how few and hard a man's days are and when it comes right down to it, no one can stand pure and blameless in front of God because humans are impure. He tells God that he knows God has already determined how long he will live, so he wishes he would just leave him alone. Job says there is more hope for a tree than him because if a tree is cut down, it will just grow again. But Job is just going to be miserable and die. He wishes he could hide away till God's anger has passed and God remembers how much He loves him. And when God does remember His love for Job and calls him, Job will respond and they can have a good relationship again. But Job says, "Just like a mountain crumbles away, God is destroying his hope and has made him so miserable that he can't focus or think about anything else except how miserable he is."

And that is the end of the first round of discussions between Job, El, Bill and Zo. There are more rounds to come and they are very similar to the first one. But for now,

listening to how angry Zo was at Job and then listening to Job's sarcastic reply can teach us something. Now, Job hasn't committed some outrageous sin like Zo thought he had. But even if he had, any wisdom that Zo may have spoken, was completely ignored by Job because of when and how Zo said it. I used to have a pastor that said, "People don't care about how much you know, till they know how much you care". That is so obvious here. Zo started out by telling Job he wasn't smart; he was wrong and he wished that he would be punished more. If someone started a conversation like that with me, I probably would just walk away. It's guaranteed I wouldn't be listening or putting any stock in anything else they had to say! And since as Christians, we are supposed to be examples of God's love and tell others about Him, in order to ensure people listen to what we say, we should probably start with love. If people know we love them and care about them, they are much more likely to listen and believe us when we tell them about our amazing God.

Job 15- 17

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Job Chapters 15- 17.

Chapter 15 starts round two of the discussions between Job and his friends and it's much like round one. El starts and pretty much tells Job all his so-called words of wisdom are empty. He then blames Job's sin for making him speak such nonsense and tells him his own mouth is what gets him in trouble. Then El kind of mocks him by asking if he was the first man that was ever born, before hills were even made. Did you hang out with God and gain all kinds of wisdom that we don't have? Because all the elders agree with us. Our advice isn't good enough for you even though we have been so gentle in telling you, but instead you are speaking out against God.

But then he turns around and says the same thing Job already said. He says that no man born of a woman could be pure and righteous. Then El says that if God doesn't even trust his heavenly helpers, He sure isn't going to trust man. Not sure where El came up with that little so-called knowledge nugget. Of course, after saying all this El says, "Now listen to me and I will explain it to you." I honestly think I would have had to sat on my hands if I were Job at this point so I wouldn't smack him. El says that he has knowledge that has been passed down to him from all the elders from the beginning of time and they all say that wicked men will suffer torment all the days of their life and have a miserable existence of living in fear and scrounging for food and wandering around desolate (which are places that no one else is) and run down towns.

Now might be a good time to mention that the story of Job is thought to have taken place in early Genesis. Which may be why they have not yet learned that there are plenty of wicked people on earth who seem to live in the lap of luxury and don't appear to suffer the consequences of their decisions in their lifetime.

Chapter 16 is Job's reply. He tells them he has heard all this before and they are terrible at comforting and supporting people who are suffering and he wishes they would stop giving these long speeches. He said he could be like them too if the roles were reversed. He could speak words against them and shake his head at them, but he wouldn't do that. He would be encouraging instead. Then he goes on to say no matter what he does, he gets no relief.

Job then turns his speech towards God saying that He has worn him out and devastated his entire household. He then goes on to give many descriptive examples of what he feels God is doing to him physically: God has turned me over to evil men, He shatters me, He pierces me, He rushes toward me like a warrior.

Then Job speaks about what he is feeling emotionally. He says that his face is red with weeping and he has dark rings around his eyes. He feels like God has abandoned him but He still is crying out to Him saying He knows that Job hasn't done anything and asks God to be faithful to him like God demands Job's faithfulness.

Job's words show how much it bothers him that not only does he feel like he has been abandoned by God, but he feels everyone on earth has abandoned him too. Job feels totally and utterly alone. He tells his friends that they have it all wrong and they should try again. They believe that they have the wisdom and that they get God's stamp of approval and are doing right because they are wealthy and are doing well, but Job tells them that does not mean they are in good standing with God and have all the wisdom. True wisdom comes from God and a truly wise man will not forsake God.

Then, because Job still longs for death and is losing hope that he might be restored while he is still alive, Job starts pondering the afterlife a little. I know Job feels that God is giving him the silent treatment, but God might be giving Job some wisdom here. All of Job's friends believe that our time on earth is the reward for trusting God and doing right. But because Job knows he has been faithful to God and yet he is still miserable on earth, he starts to wonder if death really is it? Because if death really is the end, where would his hope be?

And guess what! Job is onto something! It is nice when God chooses to spoil and bless us while we are alive, but as we said before, we are living a fruit fly's life. Now, we don't know anything but this life, so sometimes it's hard for us to wrap our heads around an eternity! But God knows. He has understanding and wisdom that we could never have from our very limited perspective. And just like Job said, wisdom does come from God! Which is great because James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, ask God who gives generously and it will be given to you." If we genuinely seek wisdom from God, He gives it to us! How great is that?! And what an amazing God!

Job 18-21

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Job Chapters 18-21.

Chapter 18 continues with round 2 of discussions between Job and his so-called friends, and Bil is back at it.

Much like Job complained about his friends' long speeches and them treating him like he isn't smart, Bil says Job needs to stop giving speeches and be sensible and stop acting like they are stupid. This whole thing kind of reminds me of a more sophisticated version of two kids arguing and yelling back and forth, "No you are!", "No, you are!" "Nooo... You are!" Bil goes on to tell Job his own anger is destroying him and then continues the same old speech, giving examples of how sinful and wicked men are punished.

In Chapter 19, we are back to Job. Who again states that they are wrong and that they are making his situation worse with their speeches and beliefs and that he is the one that has been wronged. Job continues to say how God is destroying him and how all the people on earth have lost all respect for him, to the point where they really don't even like him.

Then Job says he wishes his words were recorded because one of these days they will see he was right. And then, even though Job thinks God is attacking him at the moment, Job says starting in verse 25 that, "I know that my Redeemer lives and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin is destroyed, yet in my own flesh I will see God." WOW! That is definitely God-gifted wisdom. When all his friends are talking about being rewarded on earth and death being the end of it all, Job is talking about Jesus, who isn't even going to be born for a really long time, and how he will get to see God after he dies and how he can't wait!

Now of course, Job didn't know God's whole plan of sending His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross. But what Job did know and had faith in was God. And even though Job felt that God was attacking him at the moment, he still knew that God would also redeem him and they would be together in the end.

Of course, all this falls on deaf ears and in Chapter 20. Zo starts talking again because according to him, the disturbing things he is hearing and his profound understanding prompts him to reply to what Job said. And it should be no surprise at this point that he is singing the same song all three friends have been singing the whole time. Even if men who do wrong have it good for a while, eventually things will turn on them and

things will start going bad for them and they will be miserable because God is punishing them. Which is exactly what's happening to Job according to Zo.

Job replies again in Chapter 21, and by this point he sees the pattern all of us are seeing and he tells the men to let him speak and then they can go back to mocking him. Then basically says, "Look around! There are men in this world that are doing evil and openly don't seek God or even want anything to do with Him, but they still have success and wealth on earth! A person's health and success on earth is not always a reflection of their godliness." Then Job kind of goes on a tangent about how he wishes it worked that way cause all these wicked men are living the good life while he is miserable! Job says sometimes God punishes the sons for the sins of the father, but he would like it if God just punished the man who was sinful! After all, sinful men don't care if their sons have to suffer the price for their sin. But Job says when it comes down to it, God is in control. He is the judge and knows all and God's going to do what God's going to do for reasons only He knows. So they can keep saying that all this is happening to him because he's being punished by God for something he did, but they are all wrong and their talk is foolish.

And that's the end of the 2nd round of discussions.

Much of this book starts to sound like a broken record. The same thing is said over and over again in different ways. Especially when it comes to Jobs' friends. But again, there are some truths to what these men are saying!

In Chapter 20, Zo uses a metaphor that I heard my mother say many times to me growing up while trying to coach me to make the right decisions. He said evil can taste sweet in a man's mouth, but then it turns sour and becomes like poison in his body.

Many times, we really want to do something or chase after something even though deep down, we know it's not what God wants us to do. But we think, "OHH, but it would be so good if I could just have it!!" So we take a little bite of that forbidden apple, accept the job we shouldn't have, watch that show, date that person, buy that thing. And for a minute we think life is sweet. But then we start reaping the consequences of our disobedient actions. And then we realize having or doing that one thing is not all we thought it was going to be. Not only is it no longer sweet, it's making us down right miserable.

God doesn't withhold stuff from us because He's cruel or because He doesn't want us to be happy. Although as we talked about earlier, God also never promised us happiness here on earth. But God sets rules and boundaries because He is protecting us. He

knows what we need and what we don't. He knows what will mentally and emotionally drain us and what will restore us and give us hope. He knows what's best for us because He knows us better than we know ourselves, because He made us! If you want to know what something was made for and how to best care for it, you don't ask the invention; you ask the one who made it! And when we ask our Maker, He's going to steer us in the right direction because he is a loving and amazing God.

Job 22-25

On this episode of Kids' Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Job Chapters 22-25.

In the second round of discussions, we heard Zo give his last speech, but Chapter 22 starts round 3 of discussions and El and Bil are still going at it. El is back up with his final speech and he continues right where he left off. He still thinks Job is suffering because God is punishing him for some sin he committed. Then El gives some examples of some possible sins that Job may have committed like withholding food from a hungry man or sending orphans and widows away empty handed. Maybe he thought listing all these random, horrible sins would jog Job's memory of some forgotten sins. As if Job would be like, "Oh, that's right! I forgot about that one lady whose husband was a servant of mine and when he died, I kicked her out and stole all her stuff!"; only Job didn't commit some heinous sin to begin with. So this is just more false accusations Job has to deal with. Then he goes on accusing Job of acting like God doesn't know and sees all the bad things Job has done. El goes on to say Job should just accept the fact that he can't hide from God and he should just confess what he has done so he can be at peace with God again and then God will restore him. And that's a wrap for El.

Of course, Job replies beginning in Chapter 23. He again states that his complaints are bitter because he has done nothing wrong, but he can't find God to plead his case and God will not talk to him. But in response to what El had to say, Job says even though he doesn't know where God is, He is well aware of the fact God knows exactly where he is at and what he has been doing. Job said that God knows the way he has reacted to God testing him and he believes he will come out golden. Job said that he follows the LORD and His commands closely and treasures God's word more than his daily bread.

But despite all of this, God is like no other and God will do what He wants and no one can oppose Him. And because Job treasures the LORD and His words so much, but feels abandoned and even attacked by God right now, Job says he is fearful of God but he will continue to speak up about his situation.

Job continues to speak in Chapter 24 saying that he wished God would set a time for judgment. Wicked men do all kinds of evil and wrong things and live good lives while taking advantage of the weak and the poor. And through all this, the weak and poor suffer and cry out for help while the wicked seem to have no consequences. But then in verse 13, Job states, "There are those who rebel against the Light, (The "Light" being used as a term for God) who do not know the Light's ways or stay in its path." Those wicked people commit all kinds of evil acts at night under the cover of darkness thinking

that no one can see them. But God sees them and eventually, God will hold them accountable for their actions and they will have to suffer the consequences of their wicked ways. So it seems like deep down, Job knows that God has set a time for judgment. Just not necessarily the time that Job wants.

Then we go on to Chapter 25 where Bil speaks up for the last time with six short verses. He expresses that the LORD is over everything and all are in awe of Him, meaning His power, holiness, awesomeness and everything about Him is a wonderful mystery that can take one's breath away. Bil continues saying, no man can be righteous compared to God. Even the moon and stars aren't bright or pure in the LORD's eye, so men are basically just maggots and worms. Fine words for Bil and Chapter 25 to end on.

But let's go back to what Job said in the later part of Chapter 24. I have read that some believe that what Job is saying about God punishing the wicked makes it seem like Job is actually siding with what his friends have been saying the whole time. Which is, God makes bad things happen to bad people. Which is also the belief that compelled Job's friends to think that Job had done something bad.

Some people even go so far as to believe that the last portion of this chapter were the words of one of Job's friends. But I disagree. Job is on the struggle bus. And I totally understand. He feels he has been doing what God wants him to do, yet he is going through this horrible time. I can't even imagine having to bear half of what Job has had to experience. And during this awful time in his life, he cries out to God, the one he loves, trusts and depends on and he gets nothing. No words of encouragement, no explanation for why this is all happening, no response at all. To make matters worse, his friends are all turning against him.

Job is in physical, mental and spiritual anguish. So his human mind is trying to make sense of it all. Trying to find a way to understand and deal with how all this bad could be happening to him. And how in his most desperate time of need, God abandoned him. But even though Job feels like God left him, I feel like God is giving him wisdom and insight.

Much of what we hear from Job is his human brain debating with his spirit. What he is feeling is duking it out with his soul. His two sides are at war with each other. In Chapter 19, Job talks about seeing his Redeemer in his flesh after his flesh has been destroyed, and you can almost hear Job's soul sing in excitement for that time. And in Chapter 24, I think Job is reminding himself that our God is a just God. And although things seem unfair right now with all these bad things happening to him, when he is the one who devotes his life to God, while many wicked people who avoid God and His ways seem

to get away with everything and actually even prosper, in the end, our just and holy God will make everything right. The righteous will be restored and the guilty will be punished. And praise God for that! That even in hard times, when our flesh and human selves are miserable and struggling to make sense of it all and we can't seem to hear God's voice, we can still know that our God is a just and loving God and we will be restored and united with Him in the end. A beautiful promise that gives us hope that we can hold on to through the rough times, and that promise was given to us by our amazing God through His amazing Word.

Job 26-31

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Job Chapters 26-31.

Job's friends are all speechless. But Job, as you could have guessed, has more to say. Job starts Chapter 26 by replying to Bil saying:

“How have you helped the powerless?
How have you saved the arm that is feeble? (Meaning weak)
What advice you have offered to one without wisdom!”

Did you catch the sarcasm in his reply? Hold onto that. You are going to hear some more sarcasm later from a different source. Then Job again states that nothing can hide from God and goes on to speak of God's majesty and power.

In Chapter 27, Job says, “As surely as God lives, who has denied me justice, ... my lips will not say anything wicked.” Well his words may not be wicked, but he's toeing the line a little! We serve a just God and Job knows that, but his frustration is bubbling up again. But I gotta say, he is still handling this situation better than I would. Job goes on to say that he will never admit that his friends are right and he has a clear conscience before God because although he knows he isn't perfect, his motives are pure and he has a heart that loves God. Job continues saying that he will teach his friends about God's power. Job states that not all people who do wrong will get their punishment on earth. Some of them collect silver like it is dust! But eventually, our just God will make everything right and they will pay the price for their choices.

In Chapter 28, Job says men go to places on earth that no animal or person typically go to in order to find treasure, like deep in caves. But true treasure, like wisdom, can't be found on earth. Not even in the most remote places. And it cannot be bought. True wisdom comes from God. Job says, “The fear of the LORD, that is wisdom.” Meaning that those who respect God and follow His ways are the ones that are on the path to obtaining true wisdom.

In Chapter 29, Job says that he misses the days when God watched over him and blessed him and when he was blessed with wealth and others respected him. Job then goes on for a few verses talking about how everyone honored him and thought highly of him and how righteous and just he was. He continues to somewhat brag about how he met people's needs, saying he was, “eyes to the blind and feet to the lame.” And he was basically treated like a king.

But in Chapter 30, Job talks about how drastically things have changed. He says that there were men that were so lowly and without honor that he would not have wanted his dogs around them, but now their young sons are even making fun of him. He has lost everything including his dignity. Job continues stating how miserable he is. He then turns the conversation back to God telling God that he calls out to him but God doesn't answer him and He is turning on him "ruthlessly" and he knows God will bring him down to death.

In Chapter 31, Job lists sins that he has not committed like wanting to be with a woman that wasn't his wife or treating the poor or fatherless badly. He said that God knows he hasn't done these things and if he had, God can punish him for it. Which is exactly what Job's friends thought was happening. Job says he never committed these sins because he dreaded destruction from God. But here he is, feeling like God is destroying him. But since he hasn't done any of this, he wants God to answer him as to why all this is happening.

Now before I talk about this next point, I want to state that I wish I was more like Job. I am astounded at how dignified he handled this whole situation. So I am in no way judging him in this section, but Chapter 29 did make me think about the different characteristics of God and the ones He wants to see in us. And one is humility. In Chapter 29 Job was reliving how much others used to respect him and how he was the, "eyes to the blind and feet to the lame". Some may see this as Job exhibiting some pride. Pride is something that separates us from God because we are honoring ourselves instead of God. And honestly, we can't take credit for any of it because we didn't make us! Us being prideful about what we do and who we are is the equivalent to going to a restaurant and eating an amazing meal and when we want to give our compliments to the chef for making the best meal we've ever tested, the bus boy, who cleans the tables, comes over and tries to take all the credit for it. That makes no sense! Why would someone who didn't even make the food try to take all the credit for it? That makes just about as much sense as us trying to take credit for our strengths and our abilities. We didn't give ourselves those abilities, God did! So we have no right to act like we're amazing and take credit for it! Now we can be thankful that God gave us those abilities, but not prideful. And God loves a grateful heart when He blesses us because He is a loving Father and He's an amazing God.

Job 32 & 33

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Job Chapters 32 & 33.

When we last left Job, Job's friends had finally stopped giving lengthy speeches which basically all said the same thing over and over again. And I would be ecstatic about that, if it wasn't for the introduction of a new guy. In Chapter 32, we get to hear what this new fellow named Elihu has to say and he has lots of words and opinions.

Elihu has apparently been hanging around throughout all these speeches and now he is angry at Job and his friends and refuses to stay silent. He was mad at Job for justifying himself and he was mad at Job's friends for not proving Job wrong. Elihu spends the rest of the chapter saying that he has stayed silent because he believed those that have advanced age, which should be accompanied by advanced wisdom, should speak first. But he hasn't heard any wisdom and it's not always age that gives wisdom but the spirit in a person, the breath of the Almighty, that can give wisdom and he feels he has it, so now it's his turn to speak. The fact that this guy spends a whole chapter talking about why he is going to talk is already making me want to stop listening to him. But there's more Elihu to come.

In Chapter 33 Elihu tells Job to pay attention to everything he has to say because he's about to talk. News flash Elihu - you've been yammering away for over a chapter now! Elihu says that he was formed from clay and brought to life by God just like Job, so Job shouldn't be afraid of him or feel weighed down by him. He then tells Job that he heard him say that he is pure and free from blame but that God is finding fault with him and sees him as His enemy, and he thinks Job is wrong for saying such things. He says Job shouldn't complain about God not speaking to him because God speaks in different ways and he has been speaking to Job but he's just not getting the message.

Then Elihu lists ways that God can speak to people like in a dream, or by making them ill. And God uses these ways to speak to people to alert them to things that they need to change and to get them back on the path to being upright individuals. And when people change their ways, they will see God's face and be restored. Then those people should go to others and say that they didn't get what they deserved because God restored them, implying that Job should be more like those people and admit his wrong doing and be grateful that God used all these awful things to get Job's attention so that he could change his ways instead of complaining that God is treating him unfairly.

Then, Elihu finishes the chapter by telling Job:

"Pay attention Job, and listen to me; be silent and I will speak."

Which he then follows up with, “If you have anything to say, answer me, speak up.” and then reverts back to, “but if not, then listen to me, be silent and i will teach you wisdom.”

I’m going to be honest, this guy rubs me the wrong way. I’m not really an Elihu fan. However, like Job’s friends, he’s not all wrong. So let’s look at what Elihu has to say a little closer. Unlike Job’s friends that believe Job committed some past sin that is causing God to punish him, Elihu believes that God doesn’t always do things to punish some past sin, but to get a person’s attention about the current path they are on. Basically, he is saying this is God’s way of lovingly disciplining His children so that they change their ways. And once a person, or Job recognizes this, he should look at the whole situation differently. Instead of being upset that God brought these things on him, he should be grateful God is doing them because now he can evaluate his life, see where he is screwing up, confess to the LORD the error of his ways, and start living right, and then God will restore him.

And yea, God does do things to draw our attention to things we need to change. And yes, when God does this, instead of being irritated, we should be grateful that He loves us enough to do what is necessary to get us to recognize our sin or what we need to change and draw us back to Him. But even when a person does change their ways, God doesn’t always restore their health and wealth. There are consequences to actions. Besides, God is more concerned with the state of our heart and soul than he is with our physical health or financial status in society. Also, there are a host of reasons why things we consider bad can happen to a person. Sometimes it’s just the result of living in a fallen and sinful world. And sometimes God does things not to correct a person, but to test them. His voice is not always loud and clear. His will and path for us is not always known. And He will not always give us the wisdom to understand why we are going through what we are going through. Sometimes He just wants to see if we will trust Him.

It reminds me of a song by Colton Dixon where he describes a situation where we feel like we are alone in the dark, but then God turns back on the lights and says, “I’m still standing here. You know I didn’t disappear. See! Now the lights are on and I was never gone! I let go of your hand to help you understand that I’m with you all along. I was never gone.” I love this song. It reminds me that feelings are fickle. Sometimes we won’t feel close to God, or that He cares about us. And we cry out to Him but we don’t feel like He is listening. But that’s when we have to know and trust that He is standing there with us. We have to trust that He is good and His plans for us are good because even when we’re not, He is still loving and faithful. One of the many reasons that our God is an amazing God.

Job 34 & 35

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Job Chapters 34 & 35.

Elihu continues to share his "wisdom" in Chapter 34. He starts by speaking to the crowd of what Elihu refers to as "wise men", who were apparently around Job at this point. Elihu says that they can hear what he has to say and they can judge if it's wisdom or not. Elihu then recounts what he believes Job to have said, which is: "I am innocent, but God denies me justice", "I am guiltless" and that it does no good to try to make God happy and live right because God may allow bad things to happen to you anyway.

Then just like the rest of them, he begins to speak truths mixed with non-truths that are heavy on judgment and light on love. It's unthinkable that God would do wrong or be unjust - that's the truth. God repays man for what he has done and what he deserves- False- and praise God it's false. Then he goes on to speak about how majestic and amazing God is and how he does not show favoritism to the rich and powerful and how there is no place a man can go to hide from God. All words that Job himself spoke as well.

Elihu continues by saying that God punishes people for their wickedness. But then asks the crowd a question. He says, 'What if a man tells God, 'Yeah, I have sinned, but I won't do it anymore.'" without actually apologizing for the sin he had committed? Elihu questions, "Should God let it go and bless the man on the man's terms?" Elihu then tells the crowd that Job is wicked and should receive more punishment because he refuses to repent from his sin.

In Chapter 35, Elihu speaks to Job saying, "You say that you are right and that God is wrong and that there is no benefit to living a good life and not sinning because you haven't sinned but you are still being punished." Then Elihu asks, "If you do sin, what does that do to God?" Elihu is pointing out God's sovereignty over everything and there is nothing that can be done to throw God off or to mess up His plans. Elihu says sin negatively affects humans, us and those around us. And he is correct about that. But then He says that God won't hear Job's cries because He doesn't listen to the cry of the wicked and Job is being wicked, especially when Job is saying that he has to wait on God and he can't find Him, which is not true. God does hear Job. Elihu throws one more insult Job's way before the end of the chapter.

Once again, we have a speech that is composed of some truths & somethings that are not true. And so many of Job's so-called friends had made strong opinions and beliefs that turned out to be wrong. Have you ever, very publicly, insisted that you had the right

answer only to be humbled when you and everybody else learned you were wrong? Well, in a few chapters from now we are about to catch a glimpse of that. But luckily for us, we have the Bible and stories like this, that teach us all about God and how we should respond to Him and live our lives while on earth. So the arrogance and fall of Job's friends can become a valuable lesson for us. Which was all given to us by our loving and amazing God.

Job 36 & 37

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Job 36 & 37.

For the last few episodes, Elihu has been yapping non-stop and today is no different. Although I do find it amusing that Elihu must even realize he is quite the talker because he starts Chapter 36 by saying, "Bear with me a little longer..." although he goes on to say that he gets his knowledge from afar and that his words are not false, and then tops it off with, "one who has perfect knowledge is with you." This guy, I can't with him. But again, lessons to be learned. One lesson being, no one likes a pompous person that thinks they know it all.

So Elihu goes on to say that God sees all and those suffering hard times is because God is making them pay attention and convicting them of some sin in their life. If the person repents, or asks for forgiveness, and changes their ways, then they will spend the rest of their days happy and blessed. But if they don't repent, God will kill them.

We have heard all this before and we already know it's not true. Although God will judge everyone and they will be held accountable for their sin, that doesn't always happen in this lifetime on this earth. And we definitely know this isn't true for Job because we got the sneak peek into heaven at the beginning of the book when God and Satan were talking and we know exactly why all this is happening.

But still, Elihu continues with his "perfect" wisdom saying that Job is wicked and that's why he is suffering. Then just like Job's other friends, he throws some things out there to suggest some of the ways that Job may have sinned by saying things like - Job should not let other people bribe him, which means accepting money from someone to do things Job knows he shouldn't have done. Another suggestion is that Job should not wish for night to come so he can go drag people out of their house. What?! Now all of a sudden Job is just dying to drag people out of their house at night? Where is Elihu coming up with this stuff? Then Elihu goes on to speak truth and says that God will be exalted and then he speaks of His power and how He even controls lighting and thunder

Elihu continues into Chapter 37 saying when he experiences God's display of power in this way, his heart leaps. Then he goes into greater detail about how God is powerful and controls the weather and does things that are wondrous and beyond our understanding. Then he tells Job in his own way that when it comes right down to it, God is in control of everything and He is mighty and Job should focus more on putting his faith and trust in God than to try and figure out why all this is happening to him.

And with that, we have heard the last of Elihu.

Even though Elihu seems a little full of himself, he actually had some good points. Unfortunately, his approach to the situation and the non-truths he believed caused him to be of no help to Job. But the good news is we are about to hear from Someone that actually does have all the answers and wisdom and power. And that's our amazing God!

Job 38 & 39

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Job Chapters 38 & 39.

Chapter 38 introduces a new speaker, but don't fret! It's the moment we've been waiting for! It's God's turn to weigh in and I love how He does it. Remember a few chapters ago where we heard some sarcasm from Job and I said we were going to hear more sarcasm from a different speaker in a bit? Well, the time has come. God came in a storm; which is really appropriate since Elihu was just talking about God controlling the weather.

God starts by saying, "Who is it that obscures or hides My plans with words without knowledge?" In other words, God is saying He has ultimate authority and He is in control and has His reasons for doing what He is doing and Job and these other people throwing out guesses as to why He's doing it and saying it like they have authority or inside knowledge on the situation is foolish. Then God tells Job, "Brace yourself like a man and I will question you."

"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me if you understand. Who marked off the dimensions? Surely you know!" Hilarious. God's like, "Well Job, since you are so wise to know I was being cruel to you unjustly, you must know who decided how big the earth was going to be because you have been around from the beginning of everything - right? "

God continues to make His point to Job by asking more questions about creation. Who laid the foundation while the stars and angels shouted for joy, who put the sea in its place and the clouds? Who told the sun and moon where to go and when? Have you walked to the deepest part of the sea? Do you even understand how huge the earth is? God says to Job, "Surely you know, for you were already born! You have lived so many years!"

But God doesn't stop there! He continues to ask Job, "Have you seen the storehouses of snow or hail which I saved up for times of trouble? Do you know where lightning comes from? And who tells the rain where to go and water the land that no one even lives in so that it grows grass? Does the rain have a father? Who made the ice and hail? Can you control the stars? Do you control the clouds and weather? Do lightning bolts report to you and tell you where they are? Who gives food to the lioness or to the ravens when their babies cry out in hunger?"

God continues to drive the point home in Chapter 39 asking Job, "Do you know when the mountain lion gives birth or watch the doe have a baby in the field and then see their young grow strong and leave? Who lets wild donkeys free?" Then God says, "I gave the donkeys the wasteland as his home." God continues questioning, "Will the wild ox serve you? Will he stay by your manger at night?"

Then God gives Job some insights into some of His creations. God talks about the ostrich that flaps its wing joyfully, but can't compare to that of a stork. God says that the ostriches' mom treats their babies harshly because God did not give them wisdom or good sense. Which it is

cool for God to throw in here because it actually is the male ostrich that cares for the babies, not the mom.

God asks Job, “Do you give the horse its strength or clothe it with its mane? Do you make it move and leap and strike terror into hearts with its proud snort and not fear the sword or battle? Do hawks and eagles fly at your command with the eagles making nests up high and see the prey from a distance?

And that's basically where we end Chapter 39.

God spent two chapters reminding Job and us who He is. He is the Creator of all and LORD over everything! But He's compassionate; He even cares for the animals in the field. He has all the wisdom and even sees deer give birth. But His wisdom even extends what He is telling Job because he seems to give a little insight into the future. God asked Job, “Will the ox stay by your manger at night?!” I LOVE THIS!! Job has no clue that Jesus is going to come thousands of years later and be born in a manger where most likely an ox will lay by His side. But God knows! Because He knows what has happened and what will happen and He knows that He will send his only Son to be born in a manger and then go on to pay the price for our sin so that we can be saved. An all-knowing God, a compassionate God and an Amazing God!

Job 40-42

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Job Chapters 40-42. In the last two chapters, we finally heard God speak and He has been reminding Job who He is, often using the same sarcasm Job spoke to his friends.

In chapter 40, God calls out Job for accusing God of being unfair and states, "Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? Let him who accused God answer Him!" There is a very good chance that if I were Job, I would be too busy trying to bury my head to say anything, But Job replied, "I am unworthy- how can I reply to you?" Which really is the only correct answer that Job could have given. Then Job says that he will say nothing more. But God has more to say. He again tells Job to brace himself like a man, because He is not done questioning Job yet.

God asks Job if Job would be so disrespectful to accuse God of being unjust in order for Job to justify himself. Then God again reminds Job of who He is and the depths of His power saying, "Do you have an arm or voice like God's? Can you clothe yourself in glory and splendor, honor and majesty? Can you unleash fury and wrath and make those who are prideful, humble or crush the wicked? Because if you can do that Job, then maybe you have the power to save yourself." Which clearly, Job can't do any of that, only God can. God then asks Job if he can control the strongest creature that wanders the land. After all, God can, because He is the one who made it.

In Chapter 41 God continues with the same line of questioning and convicting Job by asking Job if he could make the largest sea monster (which the Bible calls Leviathan) beg for mercy or turn him into a pet? God spends much of this chapter going into great detail about how mighty and strong this creature is. By the way God describes it, I'm glad I have never encountered it! God really drives home His point about how amazingly powerful this creature is by saying that no one can even attempt to control or defeat the creature because just the mere sight of it would overpower anyone!

Then God questions, "If there is no hope of any man standing against that creature, who do you think could possibly stand against Me?" Compared to God, that creature is like a puppy! God continues asking Job, "Who could accuse Me of owing them something when everything belongs to Me!" A statement God has full authority to make since He made everything!

In Chapter 42, Job speaks to God saying, "I know that You can do all things and that no one can disrupt Your plan." Job continued with a very repentful (meaning he was sorry for what he had said) and humble attitude and he tells God that he, being Job, had

spoken of things that he didn't understand, that are way too wonderful for him to know. But now he has heard and seen God and he hates what he has done. Basically, Job is saying he was totally wrong and very sorry!

Then God turns His attention to El and says that He is angry with him and his two friends. God actually says, "You have not spoken the truth about Me as my servant Job has." WOAH! If God didn't spend the last two chapters putting Job in his place, I bet Job would have had a puffed-out chest and said, "See! I told you so!!" But after all Job just heard from God, I can imagine that he was still face down on the ground focusing on how unworthy he is to be in the presence of God.

God told El that he was to take seven bulls and seven rams and to go to His servant Job to sacrifice a burnt offering. Then God continued, "My servant Job will pray for you and I will accept his prayer and not give you the punishment you deserve." (just a reminder, this took place before Moses or having Levite priests in place). Then God states again, "You have not spoken the truth about Me as My servant Job has." So El, Bil and Zo did as the LORD told them.

As for Job, after he prayed for his friends, the LORD made him successful again and gave him twice as much as he had before. And everyone that knew him before came to eat at his house and they gave him silver and a gold ring. And Job was blessed more than ever. He had seven sons and three daughters who were the most beautiful in all the land. And Job granted his daughters an inheritance along with their brothers. Job lived another 140 years and got to see his kids out to the fourth generation and then he died "old and full of years".

The End.

Yay! Another book down!! We did it!

But there are so many things to talk about in these chapters so let's dive in!

This is actually a quick side note, but did you see that a man that has a heart for God and God referred to as "My servant" left an inheritance for his daughters even though that was not the cultural norm back then? I have heard many people say that the Bible and Christianity looks down on women. Nothing could be further from the truth. We will see more examples as we work our way through the Bible, but make sure you don't confuse what was culturally acceptable at the time with God's characteristics.

But focusing on these chapters, God never did answer Job's questions. And Job was perfectly fine with that because he was refocused on who God was. Which is Just, merciful, all knowing, creator of all and in control. Job then remembered that he didn't need answers from God, he needed to have faith in God. And that's what God wants from us! He wants us to know and love Him and trust that He is good and has His reasons for doing what He does. He has proven it time and time again. And honestly, He's God! Our creator! He doesn't have to prove anything to us, but He is so gracious that he does sometimes. And He doesn't owe us anything, but he blesses us.

Also, Job was ashamed that in his weakness, he questioned God's goodness and that God was Just. And Job wholeheartedly repented, which is the only correct response when God reveals your sin to you. But did you see what happened next? Job didn't allow his shame to separate him from God. That is a lie the devil tells us to put a wedge between us and God. The devil tries to tell us that God doesn't want or love us anymore because we messed up too much. But that is nothing but a lie and a trick. Job allowed the realization that he is flawed to draw him closer to our perfect heavenly Father and he used that opportunity to change to become more like God. And what was God's response after Job's sincere apology and change of heart? God called Job, "My servant" over and over again and said that Job spoke the truth about him! WOW! Like Job hadn't just questioned God at all!! God didn't keep beating Job over the head with his mistake. He forgave him and moved on like it never happened.

And a few sentences later, we see Job have the opportunity to reflect the grace God just showed him, to his friends by praying for them and forgiving them! And AFTER he did, God restored him. I love the fact that God waited until after Job prayed for and forgave his friends to restore him. It's not like a lot of time had passed and Job was wealthy and happy again so he was willing to forgive his friends. No.. Feelings were still raw and Job was still in a not-so-great situation. But now he had a renewed heart for God so he acted in faith and love and did as the LORD told him. And then... God blessed him more than ever! What an amazing God!