

Job 1:1–2:10, 42:10–17

Job 1:21

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

MEMORY VERSE

“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.” Job 1:21

One of the most troubling questions of Christianity is the question of evil: “If God is all-good and all-powerful, why is there evil?” It is a question that has troubled both believers and non-believers for centuries.

This question is played out vividly in the Book of Job. Read Job 1:1–2:10. In Job 1:11, Satan challenged God: Take away Job’s material blessings, Satan guaranteed, and Job would curse God.

God agreed and allowed Satan to test Job. (God put the testing in Satan’s hands instead of testing Job Himself. God allowed the destruction but did not instigate it.) Satan inflicted Job with nearly every kind of heartache. Job lost his servants, his children, his livestock, and was stricken with disease. But his belief in God stayed true.

Now read Job 42:10–17. God restored everything Job lost. Job enjoyed his children and grandchildren for four generations. The devil brought heartache upon Job. But God worked through the devil’s evil actions to bless Job.

While there is evil in this world, there is also good—the *perfectly* good plan of God. Could God crush Satan, ending all evil, and ushering in an eternity of pain-free existence? Yes. He can. And He will. Why doesn’t He go ahead and do it? Only He knows. Our role is to continue to believe, have faith, and look for the good hand of God to guide us through bad situations. Next time you find your family in the midst of a trial, remember Job, and help your teenager see what it means to follow God through even the worst of times.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL TIME

Connect . . .

Discuss: What is the hardest thing our family has ever gone through? Try and come up with one or two events that each member of the family can agree upon. Then, discuss: If you could sum up your feelings about this event in one word, what would it be? Take turns allowing each family member to share his or her thoughts.

Explore . . .

Have someone read aloud Job 1:20–22. Then, read aloud: In the course of our lives, we will experience good times and hard times. Knowing that God is in complete control of all things is essential to our faith in Him. God will work through personal tragedy to increase our faith in Him and to draw us closer to Him.

Discuss: What tragedies or trials have drawn you closer to God, or seemed to push you farther away from God?

Transform . . .

Read aloud James 1:2–4, 12. Discuss: How can we as a family encourage each other to practice this truth?

Pray for wisdom (Jas. 1:5). Pray together that the Holy Spirit will gently remind you that God is in control of all circumstances. Pray that He will increase your faith in Him. Pray for the strength to trust and obey.