



Job



Reading the Bible Together

April 2015

What is 'In Sync' Bible Reading?

'In Sync' encourages us to read together through the Bible, and then reflect together on what we have read from God's Word. We consider the main message and the key themes of a whole book (or books) of the Bible, and then we can share with others what we have learnt through our Bible reading.

'I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.' (Psalm 119:16)

Questions to consider

Reading the Bible does not have to be an intellectual study. Anyone can read the Bible and by God's grace understand it. The main thing is that we pray for God's help as we read.

Here are some questions to help you think through what you are reading:

1. What have I learnt about God and about Jesus?
2. What does this teach me about humanity and myself?
3. What has most encouraged me from this book?
4. How does this teach me to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul and mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
5. How does this teach me to love my neighbour as myself? (Matt 22:37-40)
6. Is there anything else I should learn here to be 'equipped for every good work' (2 Tim 3:17)

Job : What can we expect?

The book of Job is about suffering. Living in a fallen world, all of us experience suffering and we struggle to understand why a loving God allows suffering, especially to own people. And so, the message of Job has continuing relevance and speaks across time and culture. The book is deeply moving and complex.

Job is presented as a real historical figure but the addresses that are made by himself and his friends are in poetic form, and so the book is considered to be part of the wisdom literature of the Old Testament. We don't know who the author of the book was but Moses is a possible candidate. No dates are given, but Job probably lived before Abraham.

The book begins with a prologue (1-2). Job's lament (3) is then followed by dialogues with three friends, which occur in three cycles - Cycle 1 (4-15); Cycle 2 (15-21); and, Cycle 3 (22-31). Then Elihu speaks (32-37) before God Himself responds with a series of questions for Job (38-42:6). The book concludes with an epilogue (42:7-17).

Job's friends insist that God blesses the righteous and curses the wicked and therefore Job must have sinned if he is suffering divine punishment. However, the reader knows, from the prologue, that Satan is responsible for Job's suffering and that Satan is acting with God's permission and that the sufferings of Job are testing his faithfulness to God. God never tells Job why he is suffering but presents to Job evidence of His power and wisdom, and encourages Job to trust Him – to submit to the greater knowledge and wisdom of God.

How to read?

Job has 42 chapters. The book could be completed within a month by reading 10 chapters a week.

In-Sync for May : John



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