

2021

LENT
LIFE
JOB

An Element Lent Journey

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Join us for an extended Lent journey as we look at who God is through the life of Job (pronounced *Joeb* in English and *e-yove'* in Hebrew). Job is one of the most misunderstood books in the Old Testament, but when seen correctly can help change the trajectory of our worship and understanding of who God is and who we are.

Lent includes prayer, self-denial, repentance, and generosity; not as an effort to gain God's blessing or mercy, but as a response to God's great love already given to us. Our hope is that you would join us for this journey as God's Spirit leads us to know Him (and ourselves) better.

**Begins February 14
through April 10.**



ELEMENT
christian church

ourelement.org/lent



Lent includes prayer,
self-denial, repentance,
and giving to the poor and needy.

What Is Element Doing?

Throughout the history of the Christian Church there have been seasons, like summer, fall, winter and spring. The seasons in the church were meant to give rhythms to life that broke up the year in ways that reminded us of what Jesus experienced when He walked on this earth in the incarnation (when He took on flesh and blood). Again, the seasons were (and are) an attempt throughout history, by those who love God, to try in various ways to help people to live lives that remember Jesus in every waking moment.

The church seasons essentially followed Jesus' life.

- **Advent:** Four weeks of preparation for the coming birth of Jesus.
- **Christmas:** Christmas is celebrated as Jesus taking on human flesh in order to save a lost and broken humanity.
- **Epiphany:** Epiphany means manifestation; it commemorates the wise men coming to worship the baby Jesus.
- **Lent:** Lent is a time of quiet self-examination. Lent culminates with Good Friday and Jesus' death.
- **Easter:** On Easter we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and victory over the grave.
- **Pentecost:** Pentecost is celebrated after Easter to remind us that the Holy Spirit came down and not only placed believers in God's family, but He also started and sent the church.

In the past, Element has done Lent journeys, but we hope this one will be more focused on growth and connection. We also pray that all the days of the Church Seasons take on new importance. The manifestation of Jesus in the flesh also means that we become His hands and feet to our neighbors, coworkers, family, and friends.

Lent and Covid

Because Covid is progressing into 2021 the isolation continues. One of the reasons we are doing an all-church journey is to help us once again connect with one another. We can have common conversations as we are all journeying together through this season of Lent no matter where we are.

The word Lent is a shortened form of an Old English word that simply meant “spring season,” because Lent itself takes place in the spring. In earlier languages like Greek and Latin, when referring to Lent, they would use a word that meant “fortieth”; as in most religious traditions, it lasts 40 days. They both go together because Lent traditionally lasts 40 days in the spring. Lent starts 40 days before Good Friday, as it is was meant to be a time of sober reflection in preparation for the joy of Easter and resurrection. In various traditions Lent includes prayer, self-denial, repentance, and giving to the poor and needy.

During our journey, Element will encourage you to give up something for this season; we will direct you towards this during week one. While we want our time to be reflective, we do not want it to be depressing. While the normal Lent journey is 40 days, ours will be 55 days as we walk through the book of Job together. Our Journey will look like this:



Week 1: February 14-20 – The Accuser – “He only worships you because he has the perfect life.” *Page 4.*

Week 2: February 21-27 – The Spouse – “Curse God and Die, this is too much to bear.” *Page 16.*

Week 3: February 28-March 6 – The Friends Part 1 – Eliphaz – Empty Platitudes. *Page 28.*

Week 4: March 7-13 – The Friends Part 2 – Bildad, “You are sinful, you deserve it.” *Page 40.*

Week 5: March 14-20 – The Friends Part 3 – Zophar, “You’re an idiot and know nothing.” *Page 52.*

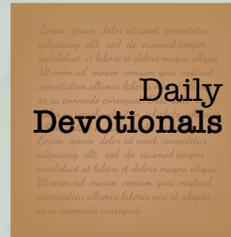
Week 6: March 21-27 – Elihu – A Call To Repentance. *Page 64.*

Week 7: March 28-April 3 – God – Revealer and Comforter. *Page 76.*

Week 8: April 4-10 – Easter – God – Mediator and Savior. *Page 90.*

In this book, you’ll find:

We have designed the following pages to be your guide over the next 8 weeks as we work through the book of Job together for our Lent Journey. Each week you will find the following:



Sample Daily Devotionals for each day of the week. They will include a verse, a couple of questions as well as some direction on how to spend time in prayer. Each week we will have you reflect on a single topic and then journal about that topic.

Take as much time with these days as you’d like; memorize the verse(s) if you are so inclined. We hope that by the end of the 8 weeks, you will have a hunger for the word and a desire to dive deeper (and do longer devotions) on your own!



At the end of each week, we will ask you to look back on what you journaled each day, looking at common themes from the week and write out a prayer, a psalm, poem, praise, or a lament (an expression of grief) to God. This is a time/way for you to respond to what God has shown you.



Each week we will provide discussion questions that go along with that Sunday’s message.

If you are not in a Gospel Community, that’s ok! Get together with some of your friends or family and work through the questions with them. Our goal is to help grow every relationship to be more gospel-centered.

What If I Miss Some Reading?

Don’t worry about it. Skim back through what you missed, and pick up again on the current date.



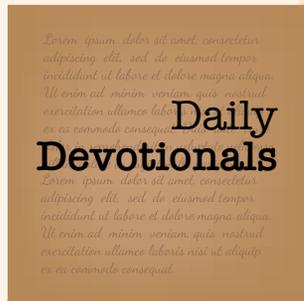
Our goal for you this week, other than focusing on the Gospel, is to identify something tangible in your life that brings you comfort, other than Jesus. What could you “go without” or fast from for the rest of this Lent journey? This is something that will be different for everybody. It is up to each and every one of us to listen to God as He shows us something that we have a tendency to use or consume in excess; something that consumes our thinking (other than Jesus) and desires. What is something that gives us “over-desires?” Is there something that, when we do not have it, we are stirred to heightened emotions, frustrations, or even anger. It could be anything; something as simple as energy drinks or cookies or something as complex as a co-dependent relationship. We want to ask ourselves in the moments of craving something (like cookies, coffee, television, relationships, or any number of things), if there are behaviors that result from the cravings that are not helpful to a lifestyle centered in Jesus. We want to ask ourselves if there is anything in our lives that we think we could not live without and ask ourselves, “Why?” What do we do or what do we turn to instead of Christ when we cannot have those things?

Side Note: *As you consider what you might give up for Lent, there are a few things we would highly recommend you not consider giving up... The first, because of the Covid season and how many of us have to connect differently to others, we wouldn't recommend giving up the internet or exercise completely (if that is your “thing”). We want you to maintain prayer, communication with others in community, exercise, and health during this time.*



WATCH:

Check out this video in which some of Element leaders reflect on what they might give up for Lent:
ourelement.org/lent/videos



Daily Journaling

Each day this week we ask that you would reflect and journal:

Ask God to show you what He has done and is doing *in your life* and journal all the possibilities you came up with. What things do you not understand and wish you had answers to?

Use pages 6-7 to journal.

Week One Daily Journaling:



Daily Journaling

Ask God to show you what He has done and is doing *in your life* and journal all the possibilities you came up with. What things do you not understand and wish you had answers to?



February 14

Incidentum ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.

Job 1:1-5 *There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.*

What do we learn about Job in these verses?

In what ways can you relate to Job?

What is something that you have in your life, a physical thing, that you take great comfort in?

How would you feel if this thing were removed?

Pray: Remembering how unworthy we are and how generous God is Himself, thank God for the life, breath, family, friends, possessions, lifestyle, work, etc. that you do have, even if it is not all you wish for in your life.

Daily
Journaling

On Pages 6-7.

February 15

Incidentum ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.

Job 1:6-8 *Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. The Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and from on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?"*

What do we learn about God, Satan and Job in these verses? Do you think Job was sin-less? Do you think there is a correlation between all that Job "has," and what God says about Him in these verses?

Have you ever believed that good material fortune came to you because of how you lived? Why or why not?

Pray: Thank God for His Sovereignty (design and order) over all things, i.e. His loving care over all the details of your life used to bless and mature us.

February 16

Incidentum ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.

Job 1:9-11 *Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face."*

What do we learn about how the Accuser sees humanity and our relationship with God?

What things in your life, if taken away, would cause you to curse, question, or wonder what God was doing?

Pray: Understanding God's Sovereignty, thank Him for His unfailing love and faithfulness through the trials, challenges, difficulties, pain and suffering that you experience.

Daily Journaling on Pages 6-7.

February 17

Incidentum ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.

Job 1:12 *And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.*

One of the reasons we want you to listen to the message before doing these daily devotions is so you would understand what is happening in context. If you have not listened to week one, please do that now at: www.ourelement.org/lent/messages



What do we learn about God's control of His creation in this verse?

Have you ever felt like God was playing a game with your life? Why or why not?

Pray: Information & knowledge, when trusted, become transforming truth that sets us free; our hearts are changed in trusting Jesus. What would it look like to be able to thank God, knowing everything has been sifted through His more than capable hands? Pray through that with Him.

February 18

Job 1:13-19 Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and there came a messenger to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

What do we learn about loss in these verses?

While we don't wish Job's circumstance on anyone, what would be the worst-case scenario calamity in your life? Would you rely on Jesus in that time or would you run from God?

Pray: Read and reflect on Psalm 23. Thank God that He is with us no matter what comes our way.

Daily Journaling on Pages 6-7.

February 19

Job 1:20-21 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

What do we learn about Job's view of God in these verses?

In the midst of loss and pain, Job worshipped God. What has been the hardest time in your life to trust God? When has been the most difficult for you to worship Him?

Pray: Ask God to help you walk through a trial, suffering, or a difficulty in your life by honestly crying out to Him that He would lead you to a place of deeper worship and trust.

Daily Journaling on Pages 6-7.

February 20

Job 1:22 In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

What do we learn about how to handle grief in the first chapter of Job?

Pray and ask God to show you something in your life that you could give up for the next few weeks in order to better focus upon Him. What are 3-5 things that you could go without?

Pray: In your questions and struggles of trust with God; when life doesn't go as you'd like or expect, ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in honest questions and insight into God's power and magnificence in all of life's circumstances. Read and reflect on Isaiah 55:8-9.

Daily Journaling on Pages 6-7.



Each day we've asked you to journal what God has done and is doing **in your life** and what things you do not understand that you wish you had answers to.

Take some time to review your notes from each day. Use page 12 to write out common themes from this week and write out **a prayer, a psalm, poem, praise, or a lament** (an expression of grief) to God.

This is a time/way for you to respond to what God has shown you. Read Psalm 91 and 93 for inspiration and guidance.



Gospel Community, Friends, or Family Discussion Questions For Week 1

Read Job 1 together and think specifically about what God says and what it reveals about who God is. Then read what Satan speaks, and what that reveals about who he is.

In your Ekids Lent take-home box you will find a kid's version of the questions located below.

If you have not done so, please listen to the message and the Talking Element related to this Job week 2.



Have you ever experienced going through Lent before? If so, what have you given up in the past, and how did you grow closer to God in relationship during that time?

How, and in what ways, did Job have a “perfect life?”

How does your life compare to Job's at the beginning of chapter one?

If you attained everything you ever desired, but didn't have a relationship with Jesus, would it all be worth it? Answer honestly and try to avoid saying what might be “the right” thing to say.

How do we see that Satan is the “accuser” and what does that mean?

How are Satan's accusations of us mostly correct?

Have you ever experienced a time when your life fell apart, and the process of walking through that revealed what you truly believed and put your trust in?

Was it different now than what you might have said you believed/trusted in at that time?

What does it mean that God has an “asymmetrical relationship” to suffering?

How/Why was Satan trying to discredit Job and expose Job as a fraud?

What gain would Satan get from accomplishing discrediting and exposing Job?

Do you see how God intended to bring about the exact opposite effect that the enemy wanted?

What was God's answer to meet His justice?

What was God's answer to restore His broken creation?

How does Jesus advocate for us? What does Jesus testify to – us or Him?

What freedom comes as a result of this?

How should the fact that we are not worthy to be forgiven, yet He forgives us anyway, change our lives?

Does your life reflect that change?

Why did Jesus endure what He did?

What does it mean to trust what God has done for us rather than trusting in something less than Him?

Have you decided what you will give up for the rest of this Lent/Job journey?

Share: If you feel comfortable, share some of what you have journaled this week, or your end of week prayer, psalm, poem, praise or lament.

Message Scriptures:

Job 1:9-22
1 John 1:8-10
1 John 2:1-2

Pray: Spend time in prayer together as a Gospel Community.

JOB

Week Two:

The Spouse –
“Curse God and Die,
this is too much to bear”

February 21-27

Lent is traditionally described as lasting for 40 days. Element's total journey will be 55, but in terms of giving up something, will last 48. We give something up in our lives in order to remember Jesus whenever we crave that “thing.” The original 40 days of Lent were a commemoration of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, before beginning His public ministry. During Jesus' 40 days of fasting, He was tempted by Satan to take the easy way out in His humanity. Jesus instead rested in the Holy Spirit's power and guidance and honored God throughout those 40 days.

After spending the last week praying about what you will give up, write down what you are going to go without for the rest of this journey together on the next page.

I will be fasting from:

****Because of the Covid season and the importance of connection, we would not recommend giving up the internet or exercise completely (if that is your “thing”). We want you to maintain prayer, communication with others in community, exercise, and health during this time.

Daily Journaling

Each day this week we ask that you would reflect and journal how the “thing” you have given up is affecting you. This week will probably be the hardest in terms of emotions and desires for the “thing” you have decided to give up for the Lent Journey. This is ok. Each day, journal WHY you are wanting that “thing” you are fasting from, and what feelings you experience as you want to “go to” and “have” that “thing.”

Use pages 18-19 to journal.

Daily Devotionals

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Week Two Daily Journaling:

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Daily Journaling

Each day, journal WHY you are wanting that “thing” you are fasting from, and what feelings you experience as you want to “go to” and “have” that “thing.”

February 21

Job 1:21 *"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."*

Why does Job use the word "blessed" after such hardship?

How is the "thing" you have decided to give up for Lent metaphorically similar to taking you back to the day you came from your mother's womb?

Is there any thrill of excitement or despair because you are facing the world without it?

Pray: Tell/express your feelings to God that you are experiencing as you fast from your "thing" for the next 48 days.



Watch/listen to the song, *Blessed Be Your Name* by Matt Redman:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTpTQ4kBLxA>

Daily Journaling

On Pages 18-19.

February 22

Romans 5:3-5 *Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

Why does the Holy Spirit bring hope and not shame? How does character produce hope, and not the other way around?

Has pain ever brought you closer to God? How?

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how the work of Jesus on your behalf, now being clothed in His righteousness, causes your shame, unworthiness, and embarrassment to recede under the light of His mercy & grace.

Daily Journaling on Pages 18-19.

February 23

Job 2:3-6 *And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason." Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life."*

If you have not done so, please listen or watch this week's message as some of the verses will only make sense in context of the message.



How does God limit Satan's power?

Have you ever thought that God was playing a game with your life, watching what you will do?

How would that effect your faith if you believed that lie?

Pray: Thank God for His Goodness, that He is all-powerful, and that a fight between Satan and God is no fight at all. Read and reflect on Isaiah 54:17.

Daily Journaling on Pages 18-19.

February 24

Job 2:7-8 *So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes.*

What is Satan trying to do by destroying Job's (or our) joy?

How does it make you feel that God created the world 'good,' and we are the ones who have brought pain and suffering?

Pray: Read and reflect on Romans 8:1-4. Spend time asking God to reveal His nature to you today (His goodness, generosity, love, longsuffering, and faithfulness). Read Exodus 34:6 and think about how it is His justice that allows our sin, guilt, and debt to be canceled; we have been redeemed and set free.

Daily Journaling on Pages 18-19.

February 25

Job 2:9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die."

How do you respond when you see the suffering of a loved one?

Can you recognize yourself in Job's wife?

Has pain ever driven you further from God?

How?

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to help you believe that God *is* God and good in the moments you long for the "thing" from which you are fasting.

Daily Journaling on Pages 18-19.

February 26

Job 2:10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

What might it look like if Job had sinned with his lips?

How can we begin to take a step back and look at the larger picture of God's unfolding grace in what we go through?

Pray: When struggling with this Lenten fast, during a time of prayer, recall God's character, love, abiding presence, and generous provision to help strengthen and enable you.

Daily Journaling on Pages 18-19.

February 27

Psalm 63:3 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

Today, take some extra time in the journal section to comment on this quote by John Piper, "The steadfast love of the Lord is better than life. And if the steadfast love of the Lord, experientially, now in this world and fully in the age to come is better than life, then we don't lose it when we lose life and we don't lose it when we lose everything that life can give."

Pray: Prayerfully read Psalm 136. Praise God for His steadfast love that endures forever, and that our desires are fleeting and temporary.

Daily Journaling on Pages 18-19.

Weekly Journaling

The seasons of the early church calendar were meant to break things up, to create space, so we can be able to meet and spend time with God. Each day we have asked you to journal both **why** you want to return to the "thing" you are fasting from, as well as **what** you are feeling when you are unable to.

Use page 24 to write out common themes from this week and write out a prayer, a psalm, poem, praise, or a lament to God. This is a time/way for you to respond to what God has shown you.

Read Psalm 33, 50, 98, and 121 for inspiration and guidance.



Gospel Community, Friends, or Family Discussion Questions For Week 2

Share with each other what you have chosen to abstain from during this Lent Journey, and why?

In your Ekids Lent take-home box you will find a kid's version of the questions located below.

If you have not done so, please listen to the message and the Talking Element related to this Job week 2.



Read Job 2:1-10 together and think specifically about God and Satan's second conversation.

How does it add to the discussion that God and Satan had last week in Job 1? Discuss Job's initial response as well as his wife's.

What does Shalom mean, and what breaks Shalom?

In what ways do you think all of creation long for the redemption God has promised in Jesus?

How is it that everything we go through is for God's glory and our eventual good?

Do you believe it to be true in your life?

If you feel comfortable, share the most painful season of suffering you've experienced. Share it while considering:

What happened?

How did you respond to God and others?

Was it generally easy or difficult for you to acknowledge what God was doing in the midst of suffering?

Do you see how, or trust that what you went through is for God's glory and your eventual good?

Do you tend to lean on Jesus Himself or on the blessing of Jesus in your life?

Do you often think/pray in terms of gratitude or adoration (affection, delight, trust?)

How can we better pray with adoration during this Lent season?

How can we see that God is more valuable than the "thing" that we have given up?

How are we like Job's wife when responding to suffering in our lives or in other's?

Do you tend to want to end suffering at any cost, or do you look for ways that God's grace might be teaching you?

How do you respond to these three truths?

1. Our enemy will try to belittle God by destroying your joy.
2. God works for our joy in Him.
3. God limits Satan's Power.

How do you respond to these personal implications?

1. Believe that God is God even when we suffer.
2. Be ok with weeping and mourning when suffering does come.
3. Trust and treasure God's goodness.

Share: If you feel comfortable, share some of what you have journaled this week, or your end of week prayer, psalm, poem, praise or lament.

Pray: Spend time in prayer together as a Gospel Community.

Message Scriptures:

Job 2:9	Romans 5:3-5
Job 1:21	Job 1:12
Job 2:3-6	Job 2:6
Romans 8:19	Job 1:21
John 11:4	Romans 12:15
Job 2:7-8	Psalms 63:3
Job 7:5	
Job 2:9-10	

Week Three Daily Journaling:

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Daily Journaling

Each day this week we ask that you would reflect and journal how God is moving you to see a world bigger than your own life. Our questions this week are geared toward that end.

February 28

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Job 2:11-13 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and

Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him. And when they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him. And they raised their voices and wept, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads toward heaven. And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

Why do you think Scriptures use the word “evil” in verse 11?

When has someone noticed a dire circumstance that you were in?

How did they (or didn't they) help in your situation?

Pray: Pray for someone who is suffering and spend some time in *focused meditation and consideration of them*. Consider Psalms 6 & 130 during your time of prayer and meditation.

Daily
Journaling

On Pages 30-31.

March 1

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Job 3:3-8 “Let the day perish on which I was born, and the night that said, ‘A man is conceived.’ Let that day be darkness! May God above not seek it, nor light shine upon

it. Let gloom and deep darkness claim it. Let clouds dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it. That night—let thick darkness seize it! Let it not rejoice among the days of the year; let it not come into the number of the months. Behold, let that night be barren; let no joyful cry enter it. Let those curse it who curse the day...

Does Job question his faith in response to his loss/suffering?

When have you been in the midst of a trial and noticed someone around you who also was in a tough spot?

How did you respond?

Pray: Read and reflect on John 11:33-36. If you or someone you love are experiencing some form of great loss or suffering, it is ok to grieve. Spend time crying out to God.

Daily Journaling on Pages 30-31.

March 2

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Job 1:21 “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” **Job 2:10** Shall we

receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?” **Job 3:1** After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.

Why do you think there is a progression in Job's responses?

What is the best way to speak into someone else's pain?

How do you help others to know you understand (or if you don't understand, that you care)?

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to see someone else who is in pain and/or suffering in normal mundane ways, and how you can show love to them. Read and reflect on 2 Corinthians 1:3-6.

Daily Journaling on Pages 30-31.

March 3

>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.

Job 4:6-7 Is not your fear of God your confidence, and the integrity of your ways your hope? “Remember: who that was innocent ever perished? Or where were the upright cut off?”

Why do you think platitudes are given to Job during this time?

What things have you said or done for others in crises that have not been helpful?

When did you notice it wasn't helpful?

Did you make it right?

Pray: Gospel (the announcement of great news) truths: God rescues us through Jesus. God's unfailing love never ends. God's mercy is available to us now. God's presence is available and abiding. God promises renewal and a new creation. Read and reflect on Mark 5:25-34.

Daily Journaling on Pages 30-31.

March 4

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it...

If you have not done so, please listen or watch this week's message as some of the verses will only make sense in context of the message.



Many times, we will say things that sound good to us at the time, but don't help others where they are at. So far this week we have been asking questions about our responses to others, but our responses will only be Gospel-centered when they aren't fully focused on ourselves or what we think.

How have your responses to your life been focused upon yourself and not the Gospel?

How has that affected your response to God and others?

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the ways that you have been self-focused. Confess and repent of these ways and express gratitude that God grants us repentance as a gift of His mercy. Read and reflect on Psalm 139:23-24 & 2 Timothy 2:25.

Daily Journaling on Pages 30-31.

March 5

Psalms 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble... A refuge is a place in a storm that we find shelter in order to survive the wind and the waves.

How is God's salvation our shelter even when the storm is raging?

How can our understanding of God as our shelter, guide us in offering hope to others?

Pray: Read and reflect on Psalm 93:1-4. Reflect back on occasions where you can now see God's hand of protection.

Daily Journaling on Pages 30-31.

March 6

Romans 7:24-25 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

How has this week progressed with your self-denial, prayer, repentance and giving to others?

What ways have you stumbled and in what ways have you been successful?

Pray: Ask for God's guidance and strength in your weaknesses and strengths. Read and reflect on Galatians 2:20 & Romans 6:14.

Daily Journaling on Pages 30-31.

Weekly Journaling

Each day this week, we have asked you to reflect/journal how God is moving you to see a world bigger than your own life. Use page 36 to write out common themes from this week and write out a prayer, a psalm, poem, praise, or a lament to God. Write specific names of people God is calling you to bless with word and deed (action), and how they need to hear Gospel grace spoken to them in their lives.

Read Psalm 8, 19, 67, and 107 for inspiration and guidance.

Community Questions

Gospel Community, Friends, or Family Discussion Questions For Week 3

Read Job 2:11-13 and Job 4:6-7 together and think about how the friends sat with Job, not offering advice, but simply sat with him in silence.

Then think about how the words that were spoken seemed to destroy all the good that was done during the silence.

How can our silence speak more than our words?

How can sitting with one another, simply being present, represent the Gospel?

In your Ekids Lent take-home box you will find a kid's version of the questions located below.

If you have not done so, please listen to the message and the Talking Element related to this Job week 3.



When is it more appropriate to speak and when is better to keep silent?

How do we gauge the difference?

Think about the following questions for both the normal and mundane pains of life, as well as the more grievous pains of loss, suffering and uncertainty.

What is a platitude?

Why are platitudes generally not helpful when someone is in pain?

Have you ever been helped by platitudes spoken to you?

Which platitudes (Christian or worldly) do you tend to naturally want to speak?

Do you find yourself wanting to simply fix the pain of other people, or do you want what God wants to do in and through their lives – i.e. grow Job's faith?

How are we as people often selfish when it comes to the words we say?

What does it mean to speak the truth of the grace of God, while also demonstrating who HE is to someone in suffering/pain?

Why is it important to know who God is, and what He has done in order to speak the truth of grace?

How can we begin to respond to each other in both suffering as well as the normal, mundane things in life with the truth of the grace of God?

Practice speaking the truths of grace to each other in how we relate to the "thing" we are fasting from during this Lent journey (especially when our hearts and minds are drawn back to that "thing").

Who around you needs you to be present with them right now?

Share: If you feel comfortable, share some of what you have journaled this week, or your end of week prayer, psalm, poem, praise or lament.

Pray: Spend time in prayer together as a Gospel Community.

Message Scriptures:

Job 4:6	Job 2:10
Job 1:11	Job 3:1
Job 2:4	Job 3:3-8
Job 2:9	Genesis 36:12
Job 2:10	Job 4:6-7
Job 2:11-13	1 Corinthians 10:13
Romans 12:15	Psalms 46:1
Job 1:21	

JOB

Week Four:

The Friends Part 2

– Bildad,

“You are sinful, you deserve it.”

March 7-13

In speaking of our goals during this Lent journey, the ideas of prayer, self-denial, repentance, and giving to the poor and needy can become legalistic extremes if we don't understand the Gospel. Many Americans love the ideals of hard work and self-determination. While hard work and taking responsibility are not bad things, if they become all we focus on, we start to sound like Job's friend Bildad.

In the last couple of weeks, you have hopefully identified and given up something in your life that you are currently missing. The goal in giving something up is to be reminded, *every* time your body or heart craves that “thing,” to **remember God's call in your life to love Him and others above yourself**. Unfortunately, sometimes when we give something up that is hard, we take glory in *how* we gave that thing up and stop focusing on the *why*.

What is God's call for my life?

Daily Journaling

This week we would like you to reflect on the “WHY” of willingly giving something up that you find joy in; what is the greater good that can come from it? Use these moments to remember that we don't save ourselves by what we give up or what we keep doing; we are saved by God Himself through the work of Christ.

Use pages 42-43 to journal.

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Daily Devotionals

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Week Four Daily Journaling:

LENT
LIFE
JOB

Daily Journaling

This week we would like you to reflect on the “WHY” of willingly giving something up that you find joy in; what is the greater good that can come from it?

March 7

Job 8:5-6 But if you will seek God earnestly and plead with the Almighty, if you are pure and upright, even now he will rouse himself on your behalf and restore you to your prosperous state.

How are these words true and untrue at the same time?

In what way is this contrary to the Gospel?

Why is it important to be willing to lay all things in our lives, good or bad, at the feet of Jesus?

Pray: Grace is how God generously gives us what we don't deserve, the righteousness of Jesus. Christ's righteousness gives ever-present access and relationship to God through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of the Gospel of grace to you.

Daily Journaling

On Pages 46-47.

March 8

Job 8:7 Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be.

How are these words repeated today?

Why is a Gospel centered on our works so appealing?

How can good things turn into bad things when they overshadow Christ?

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal your expectations of prosperity and false hope in better possessions, situations or relationships that are untrue. To help, read: Matthew 6:19-21, Luke 9:57-58, and 1 Peter 2:21. *You are not alone in the struggle of trying to do life on your own terms.*

Daily Journaling on Pages 46-47.

March 9

Job 6:24-27 "Teach me, and I will be silent; make me understand how I have gone astray. How forceful are upright words! But what does reproof from you reprove?"

Do you think that you can reprove words, when the speech of a despairing man is wind? You would even cast lots over the fatherless, and bargain over your friend.

If you have not done so, please listen or watch this week's message as some of the verses will only make sense in context of the message.



As Job sits in his despair, his friends have started to share their words. Many of their words are not wise and center on works we do to make us more worthy in God's sight. We are told many times in the Scriptures that nothing we do could ever earn God's favor, yet so often that is how we live anyway.

How have your words, spoken in times of trouble, been like Job or his friends...just like "wind?"

How could our words become more than wind?

Pray: Thank God that we cannot save ourselves or do works that earn His favor because He already finds favor in Christ's work that is imparted to us. We are already in His favor, despite our actions, when we trust Jesus. Read and reflect on Ephesians 2:8-9, 2 Corinthians 5:17-19, Romans 5:8.

Daily Journaling on Pages 46-47.

March 10

In Genesis 12, God takes a man named Abram (who will become Abraham) and promises to bless him, but the *why* is very important. **Genesis 12:2-3** *"And I will make of you a great nation and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

What ways has God blessed you so that you could also be a blessing?

Have you understood grace so deeply that you are able to bless others with it?

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you who you can bless today, and in what ways people need to be blessed the most. Read and reflect on Luke 14:13-14 & 2 Corinthians 5:19-21.

Daily Journaling on Pages 46-47.

March 11

Job 18:5 "Indeed, the light of the wicked is put out, and the flame of his fire does not shine... v21 Surely such are the dwellings of the unrighteous, such is the place of him who knows not God."

What is the Gospel?

How does Bildad not understand God and the nature of His character?

Pray: Read and reflect on Psalms 84 & 92. Take some time to express gratitude that God would come after you and include you in His family. Allow that realization to soften your heart and bring forth an expressive love for and in the life He's given you.

Daily Journaling on Pages 46-47.

March 12

Job 19:2-4 "How long will you torment me and break me in pieces with words? These ten times you have cast reproach upon me; are you not ashamed to wrong me? And even if it be true that I have erred, my error remains with myself."

How does Christ's death and resurrection show us that our error no longer remains "with ourselves?"

How can the Gospel pull us out of a pit like Job's?

Pray: Ask for the Holy Spirit's leading to see any unhealthy relationships/friendships that you need to set boundaries in:
- Relationships that draw you away from your desire to follow, love, and honor God.
- Relationships that draw you back to your old self, into places of believing lies about God and who He says you are (which is loved, righteous, redeemed, a new creation, a friend of God, reconciled and adopted as one chosen and delighted in).

Daily Journaling on Pages 46-47.

March 13

1 John 1:1-2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

What does it mean that we have an advocate with the Father?

How can this truth bring freedom?

Pray: Thank God for Jesus' advocacy. Admit and repent areas of failure, but also praise Him for being sufficient to overcome that failure every time. Read and reflect on John 16:8. Consider what the Holy Spirit is speaking to you and how you can open your heart more to Him.

Daily Journaling on Pages 46-47.

Weekly Journaling
[Decorative box with lines for writing]

Each day this week, we have asked you to reflect/journal on why we would willingly give something up that we find joy in for a greater good. Use these moments to remember that we don't save ourselves by what we give up or what we keep doing. We are saved by God Himself through the work of Christ.

Use page 48 to write out your feelings for the things you have given up. After, go back and read your list from last week. How did it go reaching out to the specific people you wrote down? How can you continue/improve this week?



Gospel Community, Friends, or Family Discussion Questions For Week 4

Read Job 8:1-7 (Bildad), Job 19:1-6 and 19:19-22. In their words you see what a Gospel centered around “works” brings: despair. Salvation by our own works will leave us feeling unloved by God and others because we can never attain the heights of a perfect morality. It is why we must understand the Gospel.

What is the Gospel? It is the good news of Christ’s death for our sins against God (that which we could never pay) and the power of His resurrection. He takes our death and gives us His life; we gain a salvation not based upon our work, but His. This is why it is called the Gospel: the *good news*.

Now read Job 19:25-27. When Job understands the Gospel, who God is, it makes His heart go faint.

What makes your heart go faint because of how great a certain good news is?

In your Ekids Lent take-home box you will find a kid’s version of the questions located below.

If you have not done so, please listen to the message and the Talking Element related to this Job week 4.



- Have any good things in your life turned into bad things?**
- Have any good things turned into LESS than good things because of your focus on them?**
- What are some good things that our culture focuses on that can/could turn to enslavement if we aren’t careful?**
- Are there any good things you are enslaved to?**

What do you see others chasing in their lives that may not be destroying them outwardly, but is pulling them further away from the true freedom and life that God calls us all to live in?

What does Scruggs mean when he said, “the real punishment for sin is that we are left to live in it?”

How was Bildad’s theology affected by his worldview and nationality?

How is our theology affected by our worldview and nationality?

Do you take comfort in the fact that Abraham’s faith was imperfect, but the object of His faith was the faithfulness of God?

If you have not put your faith/trust in Jesus:
(For those who do have faith/trust in Jesus. Please respond to each of these questions with Gospel grace):

Do you believe you need redemption?

If so, what do you think might get you that redemption?

What holds you back in understanding/trusting that Jesus is who He says He is?

What do you find appealing about Jesus? What do you find offensive?

Do you believe you are a good person or a bad person?

Share: If you feel comfortable, share some of what you have journaled this week, or your end of week prayer, psalm, poem, praise or lament.

Pray: Spend time in prayer together as a Gospel Community.

Message Scriptures:

- Job 8:5-7 Job 19:2-11
- Job 2:11-13 1 John 1:1-2
- Job 6:24-27
- Genesis 25:1-6
- Geneses 12:1-3
- Genesis 12:10-20
- Job 18:5
- Job 18:21

J O B

Week Five:

The Friends Part 3
– Zophar, “You’re an idiot
and know nothing.”

March 14-20

As we have gone through each week looking at Job’s life and the responses of his wife and friends, we have seen the idea that suffering does not simply lead to negativity in our lives, but that suffering can lead us into a deeper relationship with God. We can grow in our faith and our trust of who God is by walking through hardship. We must be willing to look at our responses to the things we don’t like that happen in our lives and allow the truth of the Gospel to have its way in us.

So far, in these weeks, we have looked at the very negative ways that Job’s friends and his wife have misunderstood who God is in His person. The same thing will be true today of Job’s “friend” Zophar... but there is also a bit of truth in what his friends say as well. That part of the problem in our world today, and in Job’s day, is we tend to think that truth is either “all in” or “all out,” but it is more complex than that.

Truth can exist in many places that are unexpected. Simply labeling something “Christian” (like Christian music, Christian books, Christian movies), does not make that thing the truth. Labeling something can also be very dangerous because some will blindly accept a lie with the “right” label. As followers of the truth, of God Himself, we must be willing to recognize and call out truth wherever we see it, even if the people who proclaim it can make us uncomfortable. We must be willing to acknowledge truth even while recognizing the faults in the truth-sayer.

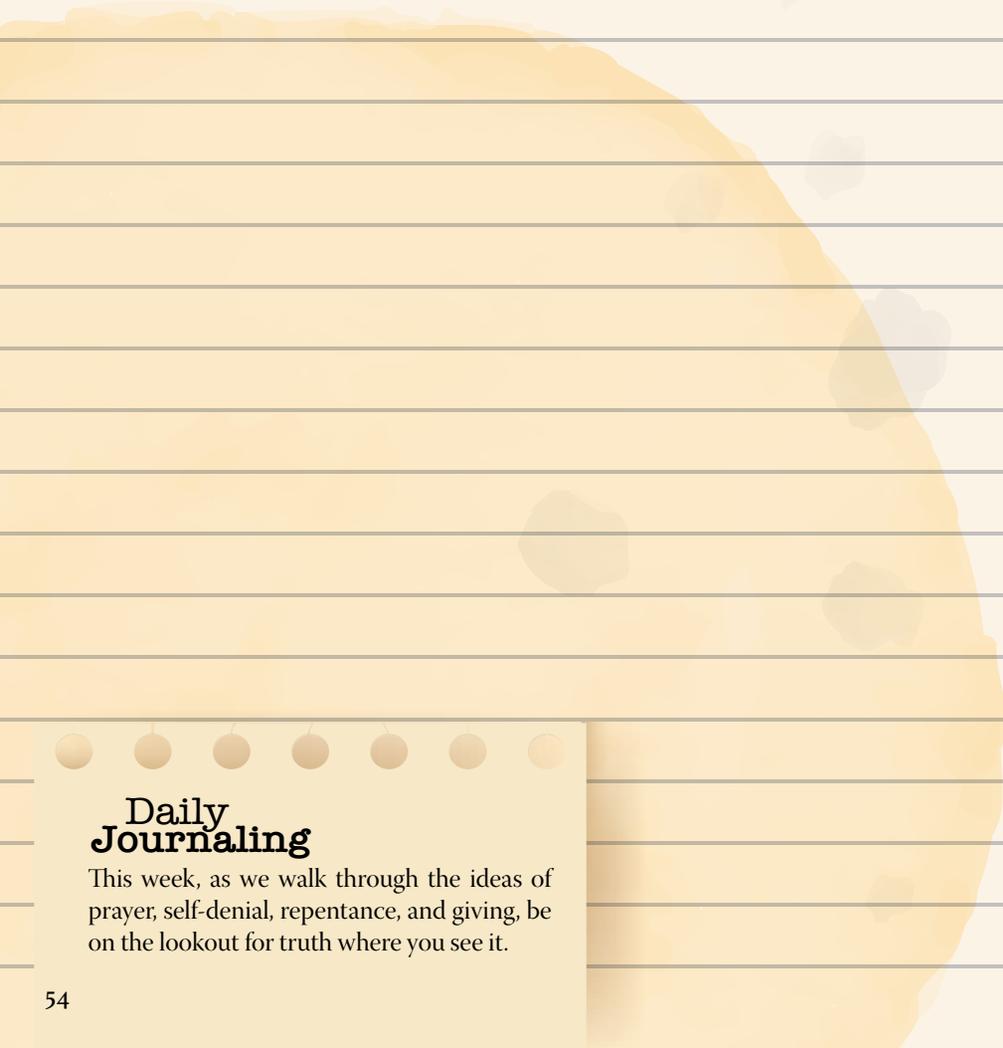
Daily Journaling

This week, as we walk through the ideas of prayer, self-denial, repentance, and giving, be on the lookout for truth where you see it. It may be in a movement you find offensive or a person you cannot find any common ground, but look for the truth underlying the human failing. Then deny your self-focused desire to write that person or movement off, and pray for more of the truth to be made known in them.

Use pages 54-55 to journal.

Daily Devotionals

Exorn. quon. deler. ad. unet. consuetud. suspensum. alle. sed. de. exornat. temp. exultat. et. labore. et. delere. magis. aliq. Ut. enim. ad. manum. veniens. non. potest. exultation. ultimae. laboris. nisi. ut. aliq. in. exornat. consuetud.



Daily Journaling

This week, as we walk through the ideas of prayer, self-denial, repentance, and giving, be on the lookout for truth where you see it.

March 14

Job 11:5-6 *But oh, that God would speak and open his lips to you, and that he would tell you the secrets of wisdom! For he is manifold in understanding. Know then that God exacts of you less than your guilt deserves.*

What are the truths spoken by Zophar in these words?

What are truths you have heard spoken by someone who doesn't understand the Gospel?

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to give you ears to hear truths in messages from those you would normally tune out. Ask how you can begin to respond by agreeing with nuggets of truth and build bridges for gospel ministry. Read and reflect on Ephesians 4:3-6, Philippians 1:9-10, and James 1:5.

Daily Journaling

On Pages 54-55.

March 15

Psalms 130:3 *If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?*

The New International Version (NIV) says it like this:

"If You, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?"

What are the things in your life that, based on your own merit, would keep you from being able to stand in God's presence?

What are you glad that God will not keep a record of?

Pray: Pray through the sinful & destructive behavior in your life contrasted with the example of the perfect sinless life Jesus lived on our behalf. Express your gratitude for the enormous cost that God paid to make a way for our reconciliation to Him. Read and reflect on Ephesians 2:1-5.

Daily Journaling on Pages 54-55.

March 16

Job 11:6 *Know then that God exacts of you less than your guilt deserves.*

How is this a precursor of grace, even if Zophar didn't understand it that way?

What areas might you find difficult to forgive yourself that God has already forgiven you through Jesus' blood?

Pray: Ask God to bring to light areas you hold yourself (or others) in contempt, not allowing Christ's blood to redeem/purify you. Where do you allow your judgements of yourself or others to carry more weight than God's judgement? God is the only just judge and now judges us based on Jesus dying the death we deserved so that we might be set free when we put our trust in Him. Read and reflect on Romans 5:9, 8:1, Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:20.

Daily Journaling on Pages 54-55.

March 17

Job 23:3-5 *Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat! I would lay my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments. I would know what he would answer me and understand what he would say to me.*

If you have not done so, please listen or watch this week's message as some of the verses will only make sense in context of the message.



We have seen that Job understands that he has sin in his life, but here he is now coming to a place of frustration. He is tired of his prolonged suffering and now starts to think that he is more upright than his suffering deserves. He wants to lay his own case before God and have God defend Himself to Job.

Have you ever thought that God owed you an answer to one of your questions?

Would you be content to live with God for eternity even if He never answered your questions?

Read: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. Consider what trusting in God's wisdom and strength would look like. Ask the Spirit to reveal what He wants to produce in you during difficult times.

Pray: Confess and repent areas where you have demanded answers to questions/frustrations. Speak of the goodness of God despite unanswered questions. If you can't think of any, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal these truths to you.

Daily Journaling on Pages 54-55.

March 18

Job 11:2-3 Should a multitude of words go unanswered, and a man full of talk be judged right? Should your babble silence men, and when you mock, shall no one shame you?

How are Zophar’s words self-righteous and cruel?

How are his words true?

Do his words speak to any situation in your own life?

Read: Galatians 6:1-2. Consider how your judgements and behavior affect others. How does it affect you when on the receiving end of it?

Pray: Ask forgiveness for times when you have spoken self-righteous and cruel words to someone else. Where possible, seek forgiveness from that person.

Daily Journaling on Pages 54-55.

March 19

Mark 9:24 “I believe; help my unbelief!”

Where do you need more strength to trust that God is sovereign?

Are there areas you “believe,” but you feel so weak that you think it borders on unbelief?

What lies are you telling yourself in the midst of this fasting period? What truths?

Pray: Pray out to God, “I believe; help my unbelief!” in the areas you listed above. Pray about your need and dependence on the Holy Spirit to work in your heart in those hard areas of unbelief. Read and reflect on Hebrews 3:7-15.

Daily Journaling on Pages 54-55.

March 20

James 5:11 As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy..

When you see Job waver in perseverance, how does that make you feel?

How do James’ words, “what the Lord brought about,” give deeper perspective of Job’s journey thus far?

Pray: As you pray, reflect on what is now true about you because of your redemption and reconciliation in Christ (what God says is now true about you: you are beloved, righteous, a friend of God, adopted into His family, a saint, called, and gifted). Thank God for the hope and future promises you have because of His present and future work in your life (even if you don’t know what it is).

Daily Journaling on Pages 54-55.

Weekly Journaling

This week, other than looking at Job’s life, we have asked you to look for the truth wherever you see it. Write down where you have unexpectedly seen the truth; where you have seen the truth, but it has been surrounded by lies; and where you have seen lies but the truth has pierced through the lies. Write about how and why the truth is bigger than lies.



Gospel Community, Friends, or Family Discussion Questions For Week 5

Read Job 11:1-12 (verse 12 is essentially calling Job a donkey) and Job 23:1-7. Thinking back over this week and how truth is bigger than lies, think

of the truth of the Gospel and how that good news outweighs the bad. Hopefully, it has now been a few weeks since you have given up something in order to better focus on who Jesus is in your life.

Are you still struggling with abstaining from the thing you are fasting from?

Do you think (like Job) that you have given it up (or suffered without it) long enough?

In understanding truth, how we grow, and how to trust God in all we go through, spend some time this week talking about how giving something up for the Lent period has helped or hurt you in this journey.

What are the truths and lies of how you have been feeling?

In your Ekids Lent take-home box you will find a kid's version of the questions located below.

If you have not done so, please listen to the message and the Talking Element related to this Job week 5.



In what ways has God called you to be fishers of men—that is, involved in other people's lives?

How is this both a sacrifice as well as a very messy thing to do?

What is your response to Aaron answering the question, "Why doesn't God just fix brokenness in the world?" By saying, "He did, by sending you!"

Why is it that mainly through pain we realize that everything meaningful in life rides on God, not on us?

Do you remember a time when pain led you to greater understanding of this truth?

How does HOPE change the way you cry out to God and express your anger/questions?

How can the messiness of friendships remind us that God has given us community to remind us of HOPE?

How can we better speak to each other in times of suffering/pain?

Do you find that sometimes you are not hearing God because you're too busy listening to yourself?

How can self-pity and self-loathing consume us and ultimately lead to greater grief, and feeling more empty and hollow?

Do you believe that God always uses suffering for good? Why or why not?

God knows the pain of suffering Himself. Does this bring you hope?

How is hope restored because of the cross?

In what areas of your life do you need God's grace now more than ever?

Who in your life needs to hear the message of grace *from you*?

Praise God together that God is sovereignly merciful and compassionate in the lives of His suffering people.

Share: If you feel comfortable, share some of what you have journaled this week, or your end of week prayer, psalm, poem, praise or lament.

Pray: Spend time in prayer together as a Gospel Community.

Message Scriptures:

Job 11:5-6	Job 11:2-3
Job 13:18	Job 38:4
Job 20:27-29	Mark 9:24
Psalms 130:3	John 9:2-3
Acts 2:44-45	John 19:30
Psalms 44:11-12	James 5:11 (NIV)
Psalms 44:17	
Job 23:3-5	



JOB

Week Six:

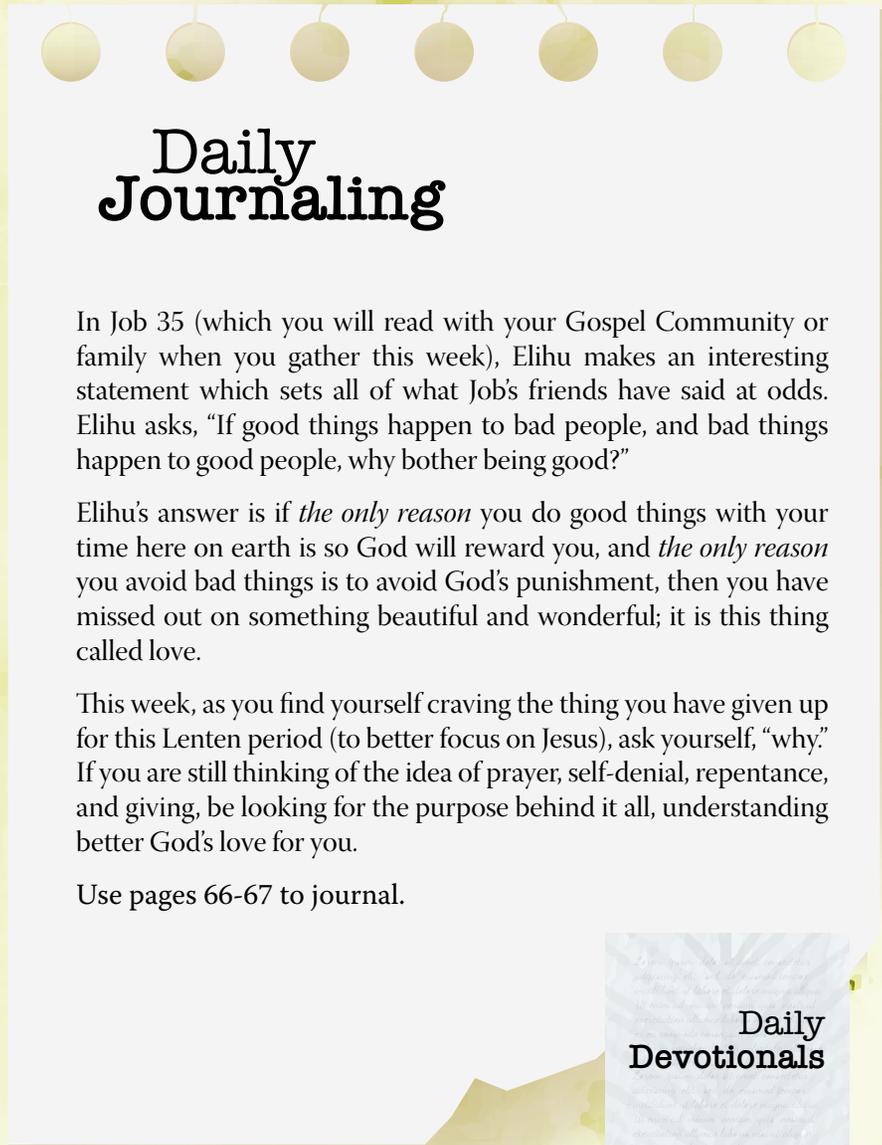
Elihu –
A Call To Repentance

March 21-27

A lot of people who have read and walked through the book of Job think there are seven main people in the story: Job, Job's wife (Mrs. Job), Job's three friends, Satan, and God. There is actually an eighth person in Job that is too often overlooked because he comes towards the end. His name is Elihu. Elihu is a young man and his words are discounted by Job and his friends because of his youth, but Elihu will have the strongest words of truth (other than God's) in the entire book.

At the beginning of the book of Job, God points to Job as a godly man, instead of Job's three friends; it is something that is supposed to stay in our minds as the story unfolds. Job's three friends are not a picture of our enemies, they are a picture of believers who misunderstand God and criticize others without relying on God's guidance.

Elihu does not sugar-coat his understanding of God and he will say that God himself can bring and allow nightmares, pain, suffering, and even death, but he will point to the larger purpose for these things. He also reminds them that ultimately God's ways are beyond our powers of perception.



Daily Journaling

In Job 35 (which you will read with your Gospel Community or family when you gather this week), Elihu makes an interesting statement which sets all of what Job's friends have said at odds. Elihu asks, "If good things happen to bad people, and bad things happen to good people, why bother being good?"

Elihu's answer is if *the only reason* you do good things with your time here on earth is so God will reward you, and *the only reason* you avoid bad things is to avoid God's punishment, then you have missed out on something beautiful and wonderful; it is this thing called love.

This week, as you find yourself craving the thing you have given up for this Lenten period (to better focus on Jesus), ask yourself, "why." If you are still thinking of the idea of prayer, self-denial, repentance, and giving, be looking for the purpose behind it all, understanding better God's love for you.

Use pages 66-67 to journal.



Daily Devotionals



Daily Journaling

This week, as you find yourself craving the thing you have given up for this Lenten period (to better focus on Jesus), ask yourself, “why?”

March 21

Job 32:1 *So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.*

How does self-focus lead to self-righteousness?

Why does focusing on ourselves seldom lead to anything good?

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where you have become self-righteous. (Self-righteous: counting our lives and behaviors as being righteous based on our strength and accomplishments. Assuming we don't need the Gospel of grace to make us righteous: reconciled, and restored to God.) Repent of those areas, speaking the truths of Gospel grace to yourself. Read and reflect on Luke 18:9-14 & Romans 10:3.

Daily Journaling
On Page 66-67.

March 22

Job 32:2 *Then Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, burned with anger. He burned with anger at Job because he justified himself rather than God.*

What does it mean that Job justified himself rather than God?

Has anyone ever confronted you with righteous anger?

How did you respond (with anger yourself, or listening to the rebuke)?

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the times you have justified yourself and your actions rather than God and His actions. (Justified self: put my actions and convictions above the truth of what God says is right, "I know better than God.") Read and reflect on Galatians 5:4 & Romans 3:20.

Daily Journaling on Pages 66-67.

March 23

Job 32:3 *He burned with anger also at Job's three friends because they had found no answer, although they had declared Job to be in the wrong.*

What gives Elihu the right to burn with anger – how is this ok?

When have you wrongly assumed someone was in the wrong?

Have you ever thought someone else was wrong when it was actually you who were wrong?

Pray: Thank God for the forgiveness He gives when we respond with anger and seek ways to ask forgiveness of others for your self-righteousness. Read and reflect on James 1:19-20 & Philippians 2:3-4.

Daily Journaling on Pages 66-67.

March 24

Job 32:4-5 *Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job because they were older than he. And when Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, he burned with anger.*

What does godly anger look like?

How can true godly love resemble anger?

Pray: Praise God for His anger towards sin, and His provisions for quenching His anger and bringing true justice. God's anger against sin comes because of how sin wrecks His design and order for our good; sin brings disorder, brokenness, and unrest. Read and reflect on Romans 1:18-20 & 5:9-12

Daily Journaling on Pages 66-67.

March 25

Job 37:10-14 *By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen fast. He loads the thick cloud with moisture; the clouds scatter his lightning. They turn around and around by his guidance, to accomplish all that he commands them on the face of the habitable world. Whether for correction or for his land or for love, he causes it to happen. "Hear this, O Job; stop and consider the wondrous works of God"*

If you have not done so, please listen or watch this week's message as some of the verses will only make sense in context of the message.



We are called to be those who first understand what God has done for us - He has first loved us, He has first blessed us, He has first forgiven us. This is why understanding the Gospel changes how we live because we aren't trying to earn God's favor. We are to live in response to it!

Why is it that we are to live our lives in response to what God has first done?

How does a response to God's gift of grace differ from trying to earn His favor?

How does God revive our souls – bringing us back home to be who He made us to be?

Pray: Sing/speak praises for God's response to our sin in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Thank Him for His grace, and that you do not have to earn His favor. Read and reflect on Romans 4:5-8 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.

Daily Journaling on Pages 66-67.

March 26

2 Corinthians 7:10 *For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death*

What is the difference between godly grief and worldly grief?

Why do you think God is concerned with how we respond to our own sin?

Do you respond to your sin with repentance or shame?

Pray: Ask for godly grief over your sin. Ask that the Holy Spirit would bring you to a place of realization that you can do nothing about your sin on your own. Call out for God's help, in repentance. (Worldly sorrow is a sorrow for being caught and exposed, but God brings us to true repentance that results in life. Read and reflect on 2 Timothy 2:24-25 (repentance is a gift.)

Daily Journaling on Pages 66-67.

March 27

Psalm 23:1-3 *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

How does God's leading not only save us but glorify Himself?

Why is it important for God to be glorified?

Pray: Read and reflect on Psalm 115:1-8. Idols are the things we worship/love more than God. Use verse 1 as a place to glorify and extol God's goodness, generosity and character.

Daily Journaling on Pages 66-67.

Weekly Journaling

This week we have focused on the ideas of why we respond in the ways that we do; whether it is how we have been confronted by God or others. We looked at anger, guilt, shame, and repentance in an effort to better understand why God leads us the way that He does. This week, as you sum up what God has done in your life, use this time to reflect on why you live the way that you do. Do you do good when it is easier to do nothing (if not, spend some time asking God to help you to do good in response to what He has already given you)?

Use page 72 to write out your feelings for the things you have given up.

Community Questions

Gospel Community, Friends, or Family Discussion Questions For Week 6

Read together Job 33:29-33 and the whole chapter 35. In the message this week we spoke about how RC Sproul makes the distinction between two things: attrition and contrition.

- **Attrition** – this occurs when someone ‘repents’ or apologizes because there is a threat over their own life. You say I’m sorry out of fear, not out of remorse or love.
- **Contrition** – this occurs when our hearts are truly broken over our sin and having offended not just others, but also a good and Holy God.

True repentance is not about getting out of trouble or getting “a ticket out of hell.” It is recognizing that without Jesus we are all lost, so we surrender our lives out of gratitude for His gracious, saving love.

In the book of Job, attrition is what Job’s three friends tried to produce in Job. Their want for “repentance” in Job was out of fear that God would crush him even further. What Elihu pushed for was contrition...an understanding of who we are, how we are loved, and the greatness of who God Himself is.

If you have children, how would you want them to “repent?” Out of attrition or contrition? Why?

In your Ekids Lent take-home box you will find a kid’s version of the questions located below.

If you have not done so, please listen to the message and the Talking Element related to this Job week 6.



In what ways has being part of a community or family been messy, but also helped your faith grow?

Have you experienced loneliness because of living in a God-honoring way?

So far, do you find the book of Job to be a book of encouragement? In what ways might we be more encouraged by the book of Job?

How does Elihu respond to Job and his 3 friends?

How does God respond to Job and his 3 friends?

Do you believe that even the calamity of Job’s life is another wonderful work of God?

How is Elihu in many ways like John the Baptizer – coming first as a messenger/herald, preparing for the entrance of the Creator of the universe?

How do you respond to Elihu’s questions of, “If good things happen to bad people, and bad things happen to good people, why bother being good?”

How is there hope in the fact that God extends grace and a way of repentance to Job and Job’s friends?

In what ways have you returned to God in your life?

How has the Gospel made you new?

How have you returned home, to be who God made you to be?

Do you believe God is working to rescue and restore everyone?

Who do you know that needs to hear that God wants to rescue and restore them?

How might God want to use you to help them understand and respond?

How have your desires changed to love Him first and foremost?

Share: If you feel comfortable, share some of what you have journaled this week, or your end of week prayer, psalm, poem, praise or lament.

Pray: Spend time in prayer together as a Gospel Community.

Message Scriptures:

Job 32:1-5

1 Timothy 4:12

Job 37:10-14

Job 38:1-3

Job 42:7-9

Matthew 3:1-3

2 Corinthians 7:10

Psalm 23:1-3



Hopefully, this week turns more toward the aspects of hope and joy. There has been much reflection over what we have given up in response to God's love for us; and while that should continue today, we start to look at who God is as He reveals Himself to Job. We still want to focus on the Lenten ideas of prayer, self-denial, repentance, and giving, but be looking more now towards our generosity in response to God's generosity in saving us.

If you are following along in time with Element in this journey, the message today comes on what we call Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday is when Jesus rides into Jerusalem on Sunday, the first day of the week, in order to reveal Himself. Some think it was to claim the title of Messiah at this time. Others think that as Passover sacrifices were usually chosen the Sunday before, Jesus was here presenting Himself as the sacrifice that would later take place during the week.

Daily Journaling

In the book of Job, God will reveal Himself and speak to Job, but in all of God's words to Job He will give no answers, reasons, or even comfort for what Job has gone through. What God will do is reveal to Job who He (God Himself) is in His person. When Job sees God for who He is, Job is completely undone and can barely speak.

This week, as you hopefully still remember why you chose whatever thing you gave up for the last few weeks, look at the light at the end of the tunnel. Look for ways to better understand who God is in His person. As you start to understand God better, try to see how often we tend to make ourselves a bigger deal than we are in our own eyes.

Use pages 78-79 to journal.

A small white box with a decorative border. Inside the box, the words "Daily Devotionals" are written in a bold, black, serif font. The background of the box is a light, textured pattern.

Daily Journaling

This week, look at the light at the end of the tunnel. Look for ways to better understand who God is in His person. As you start to understand God better, try to see how often we tend to make ourselves a bigger deal than we are in our own eyes.

March 28

Job 38:1-3 Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Dress for action like a man;

I will question you, and you make it known to me.

If God spoke these words audibly to you, how would you respond?

When was the last time you complained about something in your life?

Did you think you didn't "deserve it?"

Pray: Thank God for coming and speaking to Job, even if what He says isn't remotely close to what Job had wanted to hear. Read and reflect on Philippians 2:13, understanding that God is more committed to your holiness and growth than you are!

Daily Journaling

On Page 78-79.

March 30

Job 38:25-27 "Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain and a way for the thunderbolt, to bring rain on a land where no man is, on the desert in which there is no man, to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground sprout with grass?"

In the midst of complaining, how often do you take a step back and first recognize how good God has actually been?

What are the good things God is doing in your life right now?

Pray: Continue to acknowledge and thank God for His brilliance in creating and sustaining life where no human will ever see. Read and reflect on Matthew 10:29-30.

Daily Journaling on Pages 78-79.

March 31

Job 40:4-5 Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth. I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further."

If you have not done so, please listen or watch this week's message as some of the verses will only make sense in context of the message.



If you were Job how would you have responded?

If you could even form words, what would you say?

Pray: Sit in silence before God, listening to what He has to say to you through the Holy Spirit and the scriptures. Read and reflect on Psalm 119:105, Matthew 24:35, John 1:14, 14:16-17 & 15:26-27.

March 29

Job 38:4-7 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

What would it be like if the next time you complained, God actually showed up?

How would you respond to these questions?

Pray: Begin acknowledging and thanking God for His brilliance in creation, seeing that God's order and magnificence in the creation speaks to His creativity in our lives too. Read and reflect on Psalm 19:1-6.

Daily Journaling on Pages 78-79.

Daily Journaling on Pages 78-79.

April 1

Job 39:26-27 *“Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars and spreads his wings toward the south? Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and makes his nest on high?”*

What is our understanding like compared to God’s?

Why do we so often think we know more than we do?

Pray: Acknowledge to God your lack of understanding of all things, as well as your lack of power when it comes to making creation, others, and even yourself, do certain things (or not do them). Read and reflect on 1 Kings 19:11-13.

Daily Journaling on Pages 78-79.

April 2

Job 42:5 *I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you.*

In those moments where you get a proper perspective on who God is, how does that change you?

If you could live with that proper perspective every moment, what would change in your life?

Pray: Ask God for a better/proper perspective of who God is and to change you in response to proper knowledge of Him. A proper understanding of God frees us to trust Him with who we are. Trusting Him with who we are opens our heart to transforming mercy and grace. Read and reflect on Psalm 103 & Isaiah 55:8-11.

Additional Good Friday reading on page 89.

Daily Journaling on Pages 78-79.

April 3

Job 42:12-15 *And the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. And he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. He had also seven sons and three daughters. And he called the name of the first daughter Jemimah, and the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-happuch. And in all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job’s daughters. And their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers.*

How did Job’s life change by coming to see who God is?

Is there anything that you want to change in your life now based upon who God is?

Do you wish you, like Job, would NOW be graciously good, uncontrollably generous, and irrationally loving?

Pray: Thank God that Job was not alone, which means that we are not alone. Ask God to help you be more graciously good, uncontrollably generous, and irrationally loving, by understanding Him better. Read and reflect on 1 John 4:10, 19. The performance dynamic of grace is always love. Grace re-orientes our motivation. Lasting fruit in our lives is fruit produced from a heart transformed by the love of God.

Daily Journaling on Pages 78-79.

Weekly Journaling

This week has been about getting our eyes off ourselves and onto who God is in His person. Our lives do not need to be focused upon our trials, issues, suffering, or problems; they can be focused upon God Himself. As we travel through our lives we will encounter trials, but we can walk through them with hope and joy if we are first focused on God Himself.

The Gospel, when properly understood, resets our focus and life. The Gospel should bring about our unparalleled joy because we have been saved. Use the following page to write out your feelings of how all else pales by comparison once we understand who God truly is.

What things are overwhelming you now, that could be overwhelmed with who God is?

List out ways that you could be more graciously good, uncontrollably generous, and irrationally loving, in response to WHO God is.



Gospel Community, Friends, or Family Discussion Questions For Week 7

Read Job 38:1-18 and Job 42:12-16. After God reveals Himself to Job it seems as if Job forgets all of His questions and laments. Job's whole life is changed because He got a better understanding of God. The best way to understand this is see how Job now focuses on his daughters. We are told that he named his daughters:

- **Jemimah** = This would mean dove (like a beautiful bird that is released at a wedding).
- **Keziah** = This would be like a prized spice.
- **Keren-happuch** = This means 'horn of eye-shadow,' like make up that enhances beauty.

We are then told that Job gives his daughters an inheritance. If you were strategic in this culture you would only give inheritance to your sons as they took care of you in your old age. The writer tells us this to show us that Job is now seen as delighting in, loving, and giving to the least "strategic" creatures. Job is now graciously good, uncontrollably generous, and irrationally loving for the sole reason that God is!

Satan was wrong and God accomplished His purposes in Job. Job discovered what people in pain sometimes learn better than anyone else, he was not alone...and neither are we.

In your Ekids Lent take-home box you will find a kid's version of the questions located below.

If you have not done so, please listen to the message and the Talking Element related to this Job week 7.



Who is God?

What has God done that you have experienced personally?

What has God done, and continues to do, in all of creation?

Who are you?

What can you do in response to what God has done?

Have you ever felt dwarfed by God's presence vs. yours?

Generally speaking, are you more about your own glory or God's glory?

How does your focus continually get pulled onto yourself?

What complaints have you had of God? (Questions you want answered.)

Does it offend you that when God shows up to Job, He gives no explanations to him?

Do you trust God's word, judgements, and the work of the Holy Spirit to work for your good and maturing, even when it is not what you expected or wanted to hear?

God reveals Himself. That is the only way we can know Him. Who has He revealed Himself to you to be?

Do you see/believe that God loves and watches over all things and finds JOY and BEAUTY in the least strategic creatures?

Do you believe that God is "worth it" when it comes to your life, following Jesus, and to any and all pain/suffering you have/are experiencing?

How do you respond to Anne Dillard's quote (found on the next page)? Does it resonate with you?

How is the cross a paradox (something that seems self-contradictory)?

How is it a miracle that God would rather be the suffering God of a suffering people than the blest God of an unblest people? (Karl Barth)

How has your suffering changed you to trust God more?

How can we bless, meet the needs of, and find joy and beauty in the least people of our society?

What can we do together to better worship *who* God is?

Share: If you feel comfortable, share some of what you have journaled this week, or your end of week prayer, psalm, poem, praise or lament.

Pray: Spend time in prayer together as a Gospel Community.

Message Scriptures:

Job 38:4-7	Job 39:18
Job 40:4-5	Job 40:15
Job 1:21	Job 40:19
Job 2:10	Mathew 10:29-31
Job 38:1-49	Job 42:12-15
Job 39:1, 9, 19	Matthew 27:46
and 26-27	
Job 42:5	

“When I begin to think about God’s wild extravagance, His wastefulness, His passion for the unnecessary and the excessive and the completely useless, I am struck by a thought so wonderfully freeing I can do nothing but laugh. What if that extravagance extends to *me*?”

- **Anne Dillard**

Good Friday Reflection:

Good Friday is a time of reflection, much like the entire Lent journey we have been partaking in. Today we reflect by looking at the reason Jesus had to die for our sins before a Holy God. We call Good Friday “good” because on Friday Jesus was crucified to bring salvation, restoration, and redemption to us.

Some time today, spend a few moments looking at the following verses:

Matthew 26:26–29

Mark 15:21–41

Isaiah 53:3–7

John 11:48–53

Romans 5:12–15

2 Corinthians 4:7–12

Hebrews 2:9–11

We’ve spent most of our Lent journey looking at what we have given up. Today, however, we would like to flip that and remember what Jesus gave up for us on Good Friday.

Read the following quote from John Piper. Take time to think through your answer to the question posed:

Would you be satisfied to go to heaven—have everybody there in your family that you want there, have all the health and restoration of your prime, and everything you disliked about yourself fixed, have every recreation you’ve ever dreamed available to you, and have infinite resources of money to spend—would you be satisfied . . . if God weren’t there?



J O B

Week Eight:

Easter: God –
Mediator and Savior

April 4-10

Last week it may have felt like we came to the end of the book of Job as we rounded out the last chapter and saw the change in Job. We saw all that God was doing, at least as far as we could understand it. It led to asking how we would begin to live if we truly understood who God is in His person. How would our suffering change when we trusted God more than our circumstances?

In the end we get to see a type of resurrection in Job's view of not just God, but of life itself. Job starts to honor what his culture would have seen as unworthy and not strategic in regard to family and life. Job starts to live and see the world around him differently once he understood better who God is! The same could be true for us as well, if we become silent before God and start to listen!



Daily
Devotionals

Daily Journaling

As we end Lent, the book of Job, and all that we have gone through, today is a day of celebration. **Whatever you gave up for Lent, today is the day you partake and enjoy that “thing” again** (unless it is better if you never pick it up again). Find joy in the good things God brings into your life. As we go through this week, we want you to find enjoyment in what God gives, yet find ways to be silent and listen before Him.

As Job got a better picture of God he says, *Job 40:4-5 Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth. I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further.* This is a way of saying, I need to be quiet and listen to you. It is a moment to realize it is not about trying harder in front of God, but about listening and trusting God more because that is what will change our lives.

Our prayer is that this week you will get a better idea who God is, even in the midst of any questions that have gone unanswered in the book of Job. As we again look toward prayer, self-denial, repentance, and giving, we start in a place where we understand God Himself is good, and He has brought restoration to us in the person of Jesus.

Use pages 92-93 to journal.



Lined writing area for journaling, consisting of horizontal lines across the page.

Daily Journaling

As we go through this week, we want you to find enjoyment in what God gives, yet find ways to be silent and listen before Him.

April 4

Job 23:3-5 *Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat! I would lay my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments. I would know what he would answer me and understand what he would say to me.*

This is where Job started. When have you been in the same place where Job started?

Is this the right way of thinking/demanding of God?

Pray: Agree with God about the times when you have been self-focused and in it for your own glory. Pray about the times where you have sought to be something “for God” in order to show Him (and maybe those around you) that you have value and are deserving of honor. Pray to understand your worth and value as derived from God because you have been adopted and restored to relationship with your creator.

Daily Journaling

On Page 92-93.

April 5

Job 40:4-5 *Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth. I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further.”*

This is where Job ended up. When have you been brought to this place?

Which place would you rather be in, the one where you think you know it all or the one where you realize how little you know?

Pray: Thank God for not leaving us where we begin, in our current state. Read and reflect on Titus 2:11-12, Galatians 2:22-27, Romans 6:14.

Daily Journaling on Pages 92-93.

April 6

Psalm 46:9-10 *He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”*

If you have not done so, please listen or watch this week’s message as some of the verses will only make sense in context of the message.



How is being still before God one of the best places to be?

How does our stillness help us to listen to His greatness?

Pray: Spend time in silence before God today. Listen, read the Scriptures, enjoy creation, and speak very little. Read and reflect on Psalm 42:1-2.

Daily Journaling on Pages 92-93.

April 7

Psalm 145:16, 19 *You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.*

How does God fulfill all that we need in our lives?

Why do we never have to “strive” against Him?

How is resting in Him better than trying to do everything ourselves?

Pray: Ask the Spirit to reveal to you the areas where you need to rest in God and not in your own strength. Praise Him for being sovereign and in control of these, and all, areas of life. Read and reflect on Hebrews 4:1-11.

Daily Journaling on Pages 92-93.

April 8

2 Corinthians 5:20 *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

When we come to the end ourselves, when we rest in God's grace over us as spoken by the Gospel, how do we become better ambassadors of Him?

How can a life focused on God's desires for us be more fulfilling than other ways to live?

How can you reflect who God is this week as you celebrate the end of the Lent journey?

Pray: Ask for God's direction and leading on being a better ambassador for Him in your life. Pray for those with whom you will interact with, that they may come to see and taste that the Lord is good. Ask God to show you where you can be more present (being quiet and listening well) with those He brings into your life: family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, strangers, GC family...etc.

Daily Journaling on Pages 92-93.

April 9

Psalms 38:4 *Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.*

Do you like God?

Do you see Him as good?

Pray: Ask God to help you like Him more and more today. Ask Him to help you taste and see that He is good. Thank Him for revealing Himself to you. Read and reflect on Psalm 96.

Daily Journaling on Pages 92-93.

April 10

1 Corinthians 1:28-31 *God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."*

What do you find yourself boasting in?

Do you boast in what God has done or your own achievements?

Pray: Find ways to boast today about what God has done, His achievements. How has God rescued you, from you, your sin and destructive ways? How has God blessed and provided for you? How has He spared you and walked with you in difficulty? Confess and repent for boasting in your own achievements. Read and reflect on 2 Corinthians 10:17-18 & James 4:5-10.

Daily Journaling on Pages 92-93.

Weekly Journaling

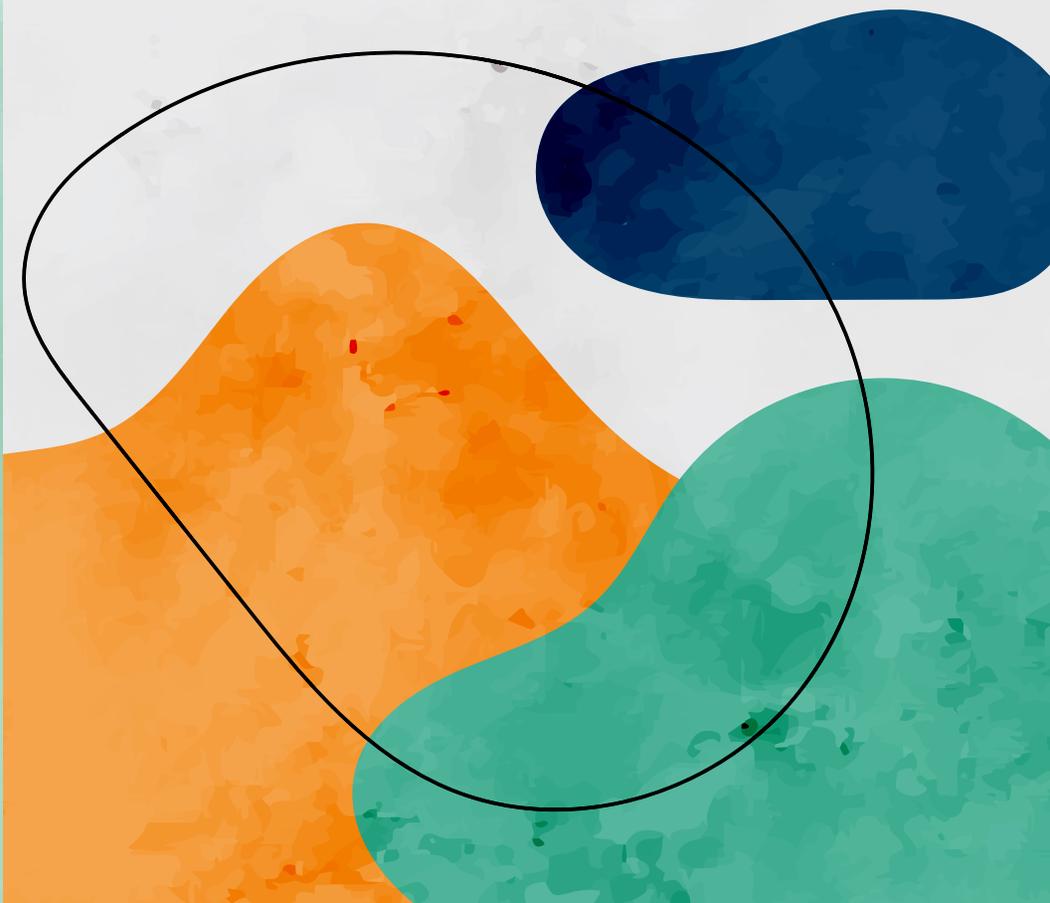
This week was meant to move us from a focus on ourselves and our desires, into a humble trusting of God and His desires over us. We have asked you to journal your understanding of what God delights in, and how He can even delight in you.

Use the next page to write out your desires and where they align with God's desires for you and where they differ. Take some time to pray that God would make you want to be silent before Him and trust Him with your whole life. Pray that He will continue to take you on this journey all the rest of your days.

JOB

Week Eight:

End of the week Prayer/
Psalm/Poem/Praise/Lament:



Community
Questions

Gospel Community, Friends, or Family Discussion Questions For Week 8

Read Psalm 23 and 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. Talk about how God leads us to the places we need to be even if we don't think we want to be in those places. We so often think that our life is just *our* life, but God has bigger plans for us, so much deeper and fuller than we could comprehend. Sometimes hardship will come, sometimes trials will come, sometimes unexpected joy will come, but through it all God is the one who can be trusted with where we are.

We know God can be trusted *because* of the Gospel. He didn't leave us lost and broken. He deemed to rescue and save us.

This week, as you have been restored to the "thing" you gave up for this Lent journey, how does your delight in that "thing" remind you of how God Himself delights in you?

How does your delight in that "thing" pale in comparison to God's delight in us?

In your Ekids Lent take-home box you will find a kid's version of the questions located below.

If you have not done so, please listen to the message and the Talking Element related to this Job week 8.



What is resurrection? How is the ending of the book of Job a place of resurrection?

How does understanding who God is better change us?

Do you *like* God? Discuss in detail.

Being Easter week, walk through Matthew 28, and respond to Christ's resurrection.

In what ways have you "tried harder" to love and follow Jesus?

How did it work out for you?

What greater power is needed than your own power to "try harder?"

What specific desires has God built into you, including: material, achievement, relational, and physical desires?

What material desires do you have that can be used for God's Kingdom?

How might God be leading you with the desires you have? Do you see these as a gift?

How does experiencing authentic, God-implanted desires in us, help us to understand more deeply what a good God we have?

Whether you have desires that have been fulfilled or not, do you have joy?

Who, or what people group, does our world/culture see as unworthy and not strategic at all in regard to family and life?

How might God be calling you to embrace, love, and serve these people of "little to no strategic value," like God does?

What can we practically do for them this week?

How can we express God's love for them above all?

Share: If you feel comfortable, share some of what you have journaled this week, or your end of week prayer, psalm, poem, praise or lament.

Pray: Spend time in prayer together as a Gospel Community.

Message Scriptures:

Psalm 46:9-10	Psalm 145:16
Job 23:3-5	Psalm 145:19
2 Corinthians 5:20	2 Timothy 4:7
Job 40:4-5	Ecclesiastes 9:10
Psalm 23:1-3	1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Genesis 29:20	
Psalm 34:8	

How to ease back into partaking in the “thing” you have given up.

As we end our Lent journey and begin to consume the thing that we gave up for the last few weeks, it can be very tempting to over-indulge in that thing and begin a bad cycle of “binging” whatever it is. Here are some practical steps to help you ease back into it...

1. Celebrate!

- Thank God for who He is.
- Thank Him for creating all things and desires, that when lived properly means we can enjoy creation without over-desiring it above Him.
- Thank God that you have endured the last 7 weeks without this “thing” – even in times of weakness.
- Celebrate that you have freedom in Christ to enjoy the “thing” you have given up.

2. Remember!

- Remember the stronghold, if any, the “thing” you gave up held over you those first few days/weeks of this journey.
- Reflect how not having it made you feel, and consider why, and if that was healthy or not.

3. Set Boundaries!

- How does loving God and trusting Him in our lives change our relationship to the “thing” we decided to give up?
- How can we enjoy it more?
- Figure out going forward what role this “thing” will have in your life. Will you go back to how things were before this journey? Can modifications be made to ensure you can enjoy it without being consumed by it?
- Commit to these goals/boundaries in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to empower you to have the strength to not just return to things as they were before.

4. Enjoy!

- Whether you decide to fully partake in the “thing,” or to continue to abstain, enjoy God for His provision in your life, that He is worthy of your trust and devotion.
- If appropriate, celebrate with others as you re-engage the “thing” for the first time. Tell others of your Lent journey, how it went, and what you learned about God in the midst of it.
- Remember God your creator.

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An Element Lent Journey

