



my grandma time

...doing simple things together!

Week 1, Day 1 --- Genesis 1-3

Week 1, Day 2 --- Genesis 4-7

Week 1, Day 3 --- Genesis 8-11

Week 1, Day 4 --- Job 1-5

Week 1, Day 5 --- Job 6-10

Week 1, Day 6 --- Job 11-14

Week 1, Day 7 --- Job 15-17

Week 1, Day 1 --- Genesis 1-3

You are not an accident. God created you on purpose for a purpose. This is where the Bible begins, with God and with creation. The Bible is a long story about God's love for people. He didn't create us because He needs us. He created us because His love overflowed and He wanted to share His love with creatures that were like Him. To be like Him we had to be free and unfortunately the first man and woman used that freedom to make a bad choice. It would be easy to blame them, but I know that I would have made the same choice in the same situation.

God's desire is to be with you just as He walked with Adam and Even in the garden in the cool of the day. I hope you'll let Him be with you as you walk through the incredible love story found in the Bible.

Week 1, Day 2 --- Genesis 4-7

Adam's and Eve's sin resulted in all of us having knowledge of good and evil. The result for their children was jealousy and murder. Since there was only one family at this time Cain would have married his sister. Adam and Eve probably had many more children than those who are mentioned. The human race grew rapidly and although they knew who God was they grew more and more evil. People finally grew so evil that only one good man remained and this is when God determined to start over. I can't imagine the ridicule that Noah must have endured as he built a huge boat on dry land. Everyone was invited to come into the ark, but no one accepted the invitation.

Week 1, Day 3 --- Genesis 8-11

The flood covered the earth and the ark had to be getting crowded as babies were born to the animals on board. Eventually the rain stopped and the water flowed back into the oceans and evaporated into the sky. Noah and his family were able to leave the ark and begin normal life. Probably the biggest change is that prior to this time people were all vegetarians. Now people could kill and eat meat.

The other thing we learn from this passage is a lesson of respect. Noah gets drunk and falls asleep naked. One son wants to expose him to his brothers showing great disrespect for his father. The result is that he is cursed and his family will be servants to the families of his brothers. The names are hard to read, but they are important. Through all these names we can follow the ancestors of Jesus as God prepares for Him to come thousands of years in the future.

Week 1, Day 4 --- Job 1-5

Job is a very challenging book. The biggest challenge is that you can't accept as true everything that is said in the book. The book explores the nature of God and suffering. It does this by looking at how different men understand these things, especially in response to suffering.

Job is a very good man. He is so good that he catches the attention of God. Satan, who is an angel, comes to talk with God and questions Job's character. Basically, Satan says that Job is only good because God rewards him with good things. Satan believes that if the good things are removed then Job will curse God. I will never understand why God accepts Satan's challenge, but He does. He allows Satan to remove everything of value from Job except his life.

The first response we see is Job's and it is genuine. He wishes that he had never been born. His suffering is so intense that he forgets all of the good that he has already experienced in life. Job does have friends and they come to attempt to comfort him. They have no understanding of what is going on. What they do is give words to the way most people think. There is some truth in what they say, but their basic assumption is false. They assume that Job has done something evil and that is why he is suffering. Most of us do suffer when we do wrong. However, there are many who do not suffer who have done great evil and there are those who suffer who are totally innocent. Job's friends want life to be fair and so they comfort him by accusing him.

Listen to Job as the story continues and see how much you can identify with what he is feeling.

Week 1, Day 5 --- Job 6-10

Job's story is written as poetry. Poetry describes things in word pictures that are designed to connect with our emotions. Some of the word pictures may be hard to understand since we are not herders of animals who live off the land and who depend on God through the sun and the rain for survival.

Job falls for an old lie from Satan. It is a lie that everyone seems to fall for at one time or another. Job believes that he has been wounded by God and that God is not good. His friends can only be relied on when times are good and this is a disappointment. Job asks what he is guilty of. He suspects he is guilty of something, but he can't identify what it is. I think one of the reasons God has included this story in the Bible is to help us understand how important it is for us to understand eternal life. Job has no hope because he has no concept of eternal life. For Job this life is all there is. He is seeking forgiveness, but doesn't know where to find it.

Bildad actually speaks some truth. God is just. He doesn't see the big picture, but he is correct when he says that if we confess God will forgive. Job responds with truth and an incredible understanding of God's might and power. Unfortunately, Job sees God as impersonal and too powerful and distant to talk to. Job speaks for all of us when he pleads for a mediator. This is a prayer that God will answer when Jesus comes.

Job ends this section by repeating the lie that he really believes. He believes that God's presence in his life is what is causing his suffering. He doesn't understand that the situation is just the opposite. It is because God has withdrawn that he is hurting. We can see from the outside that what he needs to be praying is for God's presence.

When have you felt the most hopeless? How have your friends responded to your situation? How do you think God is going to respond to Job?

Week 1, Day 6 --- Job 11-14

Zophar may be the worst of the friends. He is so convinced that Job's suffering is caused by Job's sin that he makes incredible accusations against Job. Job must be a sinner because if he is not then Zophar and his friends are in trouble.

Job responds by pointing out the obvious that everyone knows. All around us are evil people who are not suffering. It was true then and it is true today. There are consequences to our behavior, so we do suffer for certain kinds of evil. Addictions of all kinds damage the body and mind and result in suffering for the addicted. However, there are many more forms of evil that do not have the same kinds of natural consequences. We often see the people who do the greatest evil growing prosperous and enjoying what we describe as the good life while we see good people suffering through all sorts of pain.

Again, Job assumes that his suffering is because God's hand is on him. He assumes that God is close but silent and that the result is intense suffering. He is confused and is crying out for the opposite of what he needs. What he needs is God's healing touch, but since he doesn't know God as well as he thinks he does, he is afraid to ask for it.

Week 1, Day 7 --- Job 15-17

I'm sure at some point in your life you've experienced or been a part of piling on. A conflict has started and one side is winning. As soon as the outcome is clear everyone joins in to participate in the victory. The suffering of the victim is increased as everyone else seems to join in on the other side.

Eliphaz is the last of the three friends and he is just piling on. He doesn't really say anything new, but repeats again what the others have said. In his mind the evil do suffer. For this reason, Job must be evil. Notice the other part of this. Since Eliphaz is not suffering he must be righteous. Job knows that isn't true. Eliphaz knows that isn't true if he stops and thinks about it a little while.

So Job makes his appeal to the only person that can help. He responds only briefly to Eliphaz and then quickly directs his words to God. He is angry and he doesn't understand, but still he recognizes that God is God and he is not. It is always okay to express our emotions directly to God as Job does. We don't understand and God knows that.