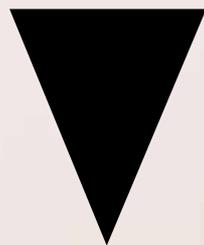
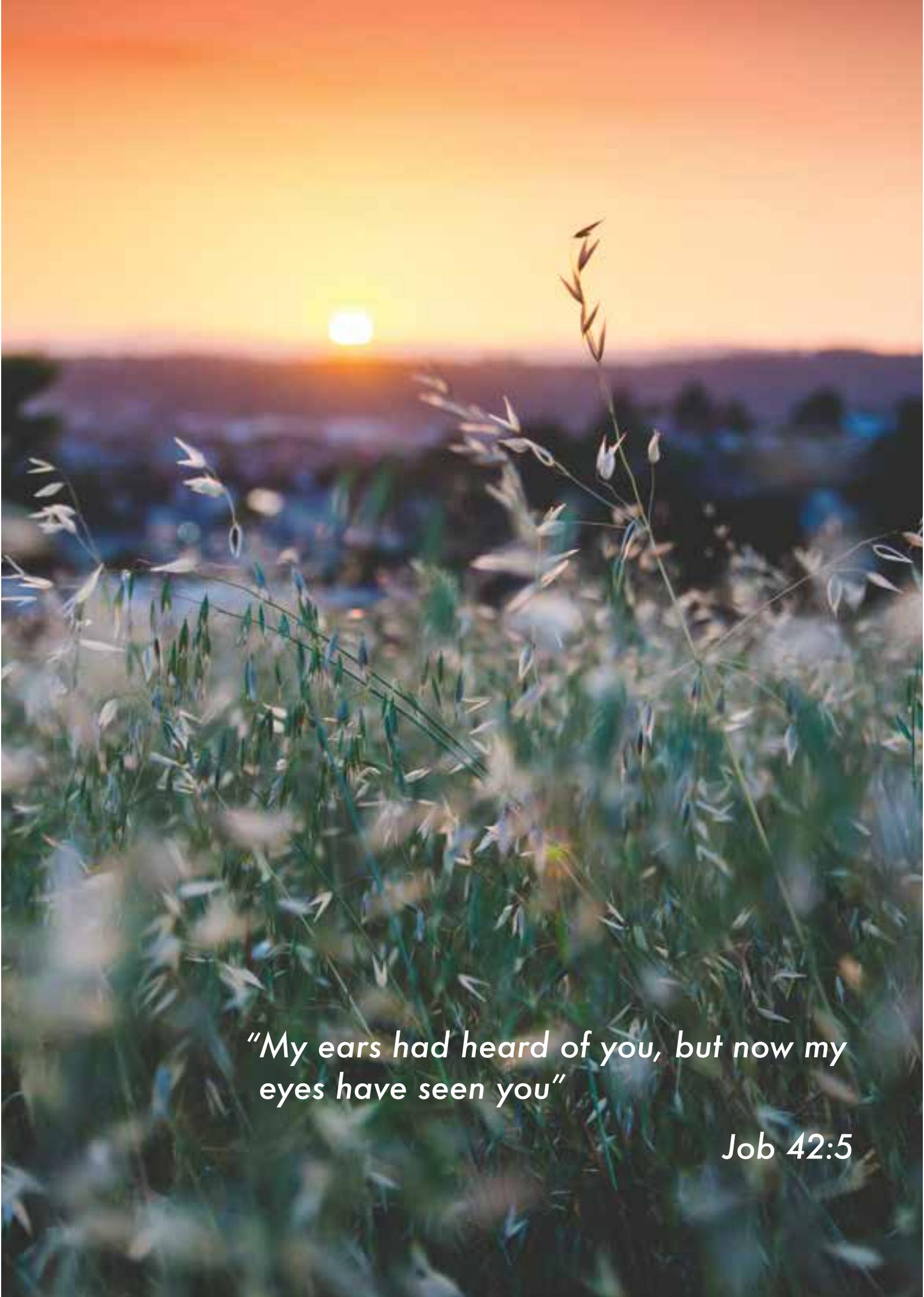


# IN THE VALLEY



Book of Job

A photograph of a field of tall grasses at sunset. The sun is a bright, glowing orb low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden light across the sky and the tops of the grasses. The grasses in the foreground are in sharp focus, showing their intricate seed heads and long, thin blades. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape under the twilight sky.

*"My ears had heard of you, but now my  
eyes have seen you"*

*Job 42:5*

# How to use this book



## Personal Devotions

- Use this book to help you read your Bible every day. You will find a guide that will help you read through scriptures related to themes in our sermon series. Scribble down your thoughts and questions, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His Word. Additionally we've recommended a verse to memorise each week.
- We have also suggested 'songs of the week'. So listen on Spotify by searching for the Church by the Bridge playlist.
- Please make note of and pray too, for the mentioned 'what's on' events each week.



## Connect Groups

- Take this guide with you to your Connect Group each week. There are Bible Studies based on each Sunday's Bible talk theme and space to write down both prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.



## Church

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

## Dear Church by the Bridge & St Augustine's Neutral Bay,

*"My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you." (Job 42:5)*

I so love this profound verse from the end of the book of Job. After undergoing so many trials and tragedies, and sitting 'in the valley' for so long, Job is able to say that his eyes have now seen God in all His glory. Previously he had heard of God, he had a relationship with God, he knew God, but that relationship had been enriched in and through, his pain and suffering.

As we approach the book of Job this term, I am fully aware of the pain and suffering that many of us have been through, are currently going through, and no doubt will experience in the months and years to come. That's why this book is so important for our church to understand – to equip us in suffering, to prepare us for suffering and to help us comfort those we pastor and care for in their pain. I do pray God would do a mighty work through the preaching of His word, by His Spirit, so we see God now and in the days ahead!

Looking back we have so much to be thankful for:

- A growing partnership between our 2 churches.
- The 30 new people who have joined in the past 2 months.
- The 25 people who completed Christianity Explored, many of whom are now meeting in a new group.
- Our God's Big Picture course that has helped people understand the Bible's storyline from Genesis through to Revelation.
- Our Prayer Meetings packed with people eagerly depending on the Lord.
- New Connect Groups forming for encouragement and digging into God's Word.
- Our 'True Community' sermon series, expanding our understanding about how precious God's church is.
- Growing kids and youth ministries.
- Men's and Women's teaching events.
- The Marriage Course and the Living Single Conference – with so many people strengthened for those seasons of life.
- The Winter Appeal that sought to care well for those in need.
- The opportunity we have every week to gather across 7 congregations, in 2 locations, to worship God and be encouraged and edified in our faith.

It is such a joy to pastor the flock of God under our care, and we as a staff team seek to do that prayerfully and sacrificially. What an incredibly humble and hard-working staff team we are blessed with – please do show your support and appreciation.

This coming term we have more wonderful opportunities to grow together as a church family. Here are just a few:

- a) Job: In the Valley! I can't wait to witness how God's Word transforms our lives through this sermon series, followed by a short series in the book of Ruth.
- b) Women's ministry: We have our quarterly 'Refuel' (women's teaching and worship afternoon teas) and regular 'Refresh' (women's small group half days of prayer), as well as the One Love Conference this term.
- c) Men's ministry: We have an opportunity to gather at Basecamp (Men's Katoomba Convention), as well as another 'Recharge' teaching event.
- d) Mission: In addition to our weekly Playtime, Bridge Kids, Ignite, Everyday English, Greenway ministries and Nursing home ministries, we have a MegaMonday (Kids Pupil Free Day program), another Alpha Course starting, and a Hot Topic night.
- e) Prayer meetings: Our Central Prayer Meeting is on the 1st Wednesday evening (7.45-9.15pm) of every month, in Kirribilli. Our Prayer Breakfast is on the 3rd Saturday morning (7.30-8.30am) of every month in Neutral Bay. We'll also have our monthly prayer diary across both churches.

Please do pray that we would be a church that loves Jesus, loves others, seeks to grow in our godliness and our prayerfulness, and eager to do good to all people!

Rachel and I are thankful for this privilege of serving the saints, and we crave your prayers.

With love in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Dale". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish underneath the name.

Paul Dale (Senior Pastor)

# Overview of Job

*“Tomorrow, if all literature was to be destroyed and it was left to me to retain one work only, I should save Job” (Victor Hugo)*

*“Job is....the greatest poem, whether of ancient or modern literature” (Tennyson)*

*“Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 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” (James 5:10-11)*

## THE PLACE OF JOB IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Job is part of the ‘Wisdom Literature’ (Wisdom meaning expertise, skill, good advice).

Oswald Chambers suggested the following concise summary:

- Job – How to suffer
- Psalms – How to pray
- Proverbs – How to act
- Ecclesiastes – How to enjoy
- Song of Songs – How to love

## AUTHOR & DATE OF WRITING

Who wrote the book and when? To be honest, no one really knows!

Some Jewish tradition attributes it to Moses, but other authors have been suggested (Job, Elihu, Solomon, Hezekiah). “All that can be said with certainty is that the author was a loyal Hebrew who was not strictly bound by the popular creed that assumed that suffering was always the direct result of sin.”

Because the author is unknown, so is the date. There are also no historical reference points in the book. Some think it was pre-Moses (pre 1500 BC), others around the time of Solomon (c 900 BC), and some even as late as the Babylonian Exile (post 600 BC).

But the uncertainty of author and date does not nullify the book’s inspiration. It is affirmed and quoted many times (e.g. Ezekiel 14:14, 1 Cor 3:19 c.f. Job 5:13; Romans 11:35 c.f. Job 41:11, James 5:11).

## SETTING OF THE BOOK

The historical events appear to be set in the “Patriarchal” period. There are no allusions to the Law of Moses, but there is mention of the flood (22:16). Job functions as a priest in offering sacrifices for his family (1:5) and his longevity is typical of the patriarchs (42:16). My hunch is that it is set somewhere between Noah and Moses.

## THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

It's common to hear that Job was written to answer the age-old question 'Why does God allow suffering?'. This is certainly one of the questions raised, but the book is about much more than that! We are privileged to know the challenge of Satan and the fact that God allows Job to suffer, but Job is never told. Ultimately it is a book written not to address the 'why' question, but the 'how' question. "How should the righteous suffer?", "How should we respond to God in suffering?", "How should we comfort those who are suffering?"

This is a book about God and suffering and the reality of living in a messed up world where terrible things do happen. Yes it's a book about a 'good man' who suffers, and yes it's a book about why 'bad people seem to prosper'. So it does cause us to grapple with topics of justice and pain and anger and where is God in all this?

But it's also a very personal book! Christopher Ash helpfully describes the difference between 'Armchair questions' and 'Wheelchair questions'. The 'Armchair questions' are the theoretical questions we ask when we are remote from suffering, whereas the 'wheelchair questions' are when we ourselves are experiencing pain and suffering. This is a man asking the 'wheelchair questions'! He is suffering! He's crying out 'Where is God? What kind of God is this? Why?!" Yet whilst Job's questions and complaints often come close to charging God with wrong, he never crosses the line and humbly submits to God when told that the answers to his questions are beyond his ability to understand.

That's why we are preaching Job – because behind most front doors, lie people in pain. And if we haven't yet suffered, one day, calamity will come and we need to be prepared for that.

This book is staggeringly honest and is a model of how to respond to suffering.

The book of Job should touch us, trouble us, unsettle us, but ultimately point us to Jesus.

## OBSERVATIONS ABOUT JOB

- a) It's a long book: 42 chapters long to be precise! So we can't just read Ch 1 and 2 and then Ch 42, to get our theology of suffering. There are 39 chapters in between and these chapters show us that when the suffering questions are asked from the wheelchair, we can't answer them on a postcard, or via a tweet. There is no instant answer to suffering, but more of a 'come on a journey with me, a long complex journey'. It's like going through therapy – it often takes years to unlearn one way of thinking, and develop the new framework.
- b) It's poetry! 95% of the book is written in poetry, and poetry is emotional and evocative. Poetry is written to move the heart, not just feed the head. Poetry touches us and moves us. When it comes to suffering, there are no neat, tidy, propositions; no bullet point answers. So we need to immerse ourselves in the emotions of Job if we are to understand this book. Job lived in suffering, not just studied it. We need to try to 'live in it', so that when we are 'living it personally', we'll know how to respond.
- c) We can't just bring all our questions and find simple answers! But it does provide some answers to the questions such as:
- Debate on problems of evil and suffering:
    - o Why do innocent people suffer?
    - o Is good really rewarded and evil punished?
  - Responding rightly to God in midst of suffering:
    - o Can we trust in God in the midst of pain?
    - o Will we bow down to God in the midst of darkness?
  - Enlarging understanding of God and growing our faith:
    - o It grows our humility – there is so much of this world we don't understand. Wisdom is God's domain.
    - o It's presumptuous to suggest we could run the world better.

- d) Job defends the absolute glory and perfection of God. God is deserving of our praise simply on the basis of who He is, apart from the blessings He bestows. Satan denied this (1:9-11), but Job proved him wrong (1:20-22; 2:10).
- e) Job makes no sense without Jesus. Job actually foreshadows one man whose greatness exceeded even Job; one man who lived in perfect obedience – namely the Lord Jesus. Remember Job was a prophet who was living out the anticipation of something like the suffering of Christ. Job longed for a mediator (9:33, 33:23) and Jesus is that one (1 Tim 2:5). Job confessed his faith in a Redeemer who would one day come (19:25), and Jesus is that one (Eph 1:7).

## STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK

Part 1: (Prose-Poetry) The ‘events’ of Job’s life!

Introducing Job & what happened to him	(1:1 – 2:10)
Introducing Job’s three ‘friends’	(2:11-13)
Job’s lament	(3)

Part 2: (Poetry) ‘Conversations’ with Job!

Speeches by friends & Job’s response	(4:1 – 27:23)
a. First round (4-14)	
Eliphaz (4-5) – Job’s reply (6-7)	
Bildad (8) - Job’s reply (9-10)	
Zopher (11) - Job’s reply (12-14)	
b. Second round (15-21)	
Eliphaz (15) – Job’s reply (16-17)	
Bildad (18) - Job’s reply (19)	
Zopher (20) - Job’s reply (21)	
c. Third round (22-27)	
Eliphaz (22) – Job’s reply (23-24)	
Bildad (25) - Job’s reply (26-27)	
Poem about wisdom	(28:1-28)
Job’s final defence	(29:1 – 31:40)

Part 3: (Poetry – prose) The ‘answers’ to Job!

Young Elihu’s answers	(32:1 – 37:24)
Contradicting Job’s friends (32)	
Contradicting Job himself (33)	
Proclaiming God’s justice, goodness and majesty (34-37)	
The Lord’s answers & Job’s response	(38:1 – 42:6)
God humbles Job through questions too great to answer (38-41)	
Job acknowledges his inability to understand (42:1-6)	
Restoration & conclusion	(42:7-17)
God rebukes his critics (42:7-10)	
God restores Job (42:11-17)	

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

1. Job: The Wisdom of the Cross (by Christopher Ash)
2. Out of the Storm (by Christopher Ash)
3. The Message of Job (by Atkinson)
4. “Book of Job Youtube video” by The Bible Project
5. “God’s Love in Action” (by Jill McGilvray)
6. “Shelter in the Storm” (by Paul Tripp)
7. “Valley of Vision” book of Puritan prayers
8. Job: Trusting God in Hard Times (by Ken Moser for Youthworks)\*
9. Job: The Eye of the Storm (by Bryson Smith for Matthias Media)\*

\*Bible studies partially referenced from here.

# Life...In the Valley

**Job 1:1-2:10**

SERMON NOTES:



**WEEK BEGINNING:**

Monday 23rd July

**Songs for the week:**

O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer  
Build My Life

**Bible readings:**

Monday: Job 1  
Tuesday: Job 2  
Wednesday: Job 1 & 2  
Thursday: Job 3  
Friday: Job 1-3

**Memory verse:**

Job 1:21 “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart.  
The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be  
praised.”

**What’s on:**

Mon 23rd: Kids Mega Monday  
Mon 23rd: Belonging Course Commences  
Sun 29th: Refresh: Women’s Small Group Half Day of Prayer

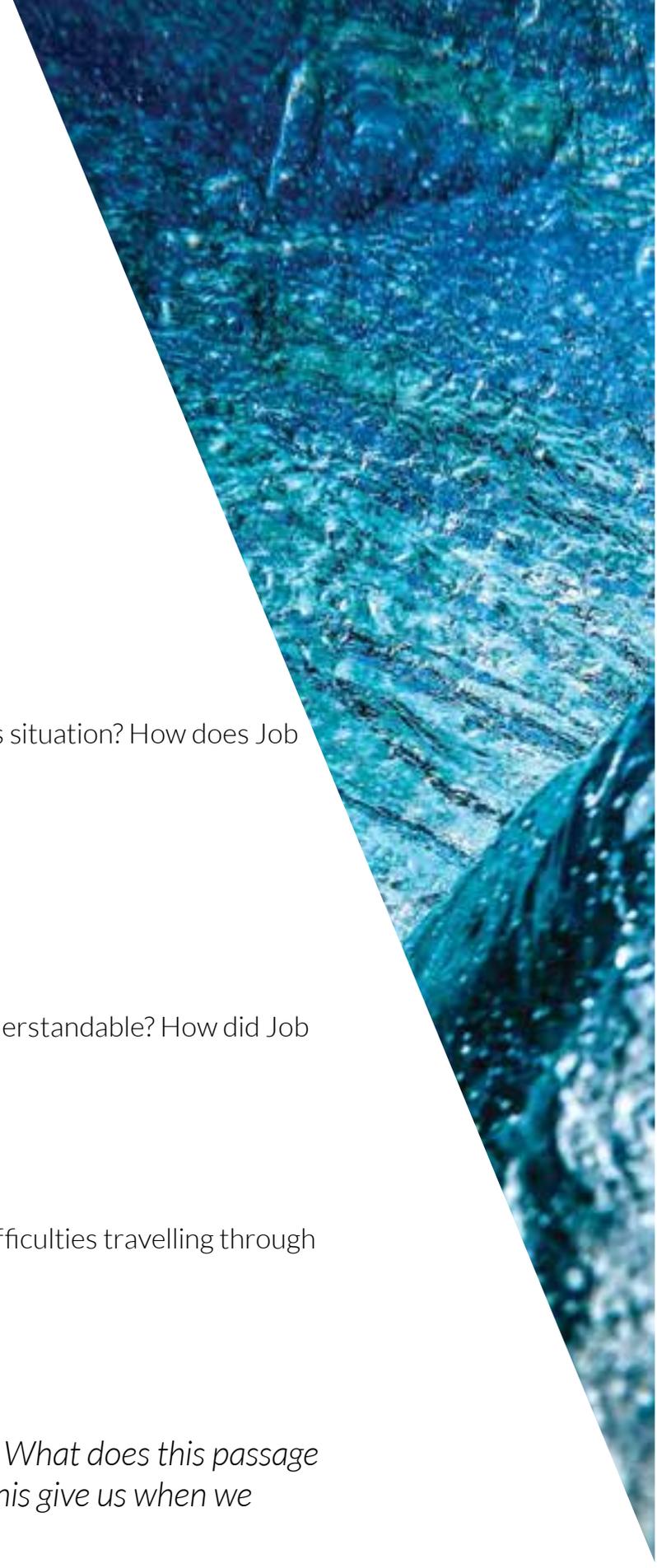
# Big idea:

## Job suffers as a test of his righteousness.

*Discussion: Have you seen or experienced suffering that you thought was undeserved? Why does undeserved suffering evoke such strong emotions?*

### Read Job 1:1-12

1. What does the passage say about Job's character and assets? Where is the emphasis in the passage?
2. Why might it be tempting to draw a close link between wealth and righteousness?
3. What is Satan's accusation against Job and what does this reveal about Satan?
4. What is the reason behind God allowing Satan to take everything away from Job? What is the power dynamic between Satan and God?



## Read Job 1:13-22

5. What things are taken from Job?

6. How might we be tempted to respond in this situation? How does Job respond?

## Read Job 2:1-10

7. In what way is Job's wife's reaction in v9 understandable? How did Job choose to respond v10?

8. How does Job's suffering mirror our own difficulties travelling through life? How is it unlike our own sufferings?

*Personal Reflection: Read Romans 5:3-5. What does this passage tell us about suffering? What hope does this give us when we experience suffering?*

# Pain...In the Valley

**Job 2:11-3:26**

SERMON NOTES:



**WEEK BEGINNING:**

Monday 30th July

**Songs for the week:**

Be Still My Soul

Hear Our Prayer

**Bible readings:**

Monday: Job 4-5

Tuesday: Job 6-7

Wednesday: Job 8

Thursday: Job 9-10

Friday: Job 11

**Memory verse:**

Job 7:17-19 “What is mankind that you make so much of them, that you give them so much attention, that you examine them every morning and test them every moment? Will you never look away from me, or let me alone even for an instant?”

**What's on:**

Mon 30th: Alpha PM Course Commences

Mon 30th: Belonging Course Continues

Wed 1st: Central Prayer Meeting (Kirribilli)

Sat 4th: Refuel: Women's Teaching & Worship Afternoon Tea

# Big idea:

## Responding to God in unexplained suffering.

*Discussion: What is some good (or bad) support that you have experienced in hard times?*

### Read Job 2:11-13

1. How did Job's friends support him? What did they do well in his situation?

### Read Job 3:1-26

2. Compare what Job does in verse 1 with what he is urged to do in 2:9. What's similar? What's different?
3. There are subtle differences between v3-10 with v11-19 and v20-26. If you could add sub-headings to these sections, what would you label them?
4. Is there any imagery or words that Job uses that you find confronting or difficult?

5. If you were one of Job's friends, how would you respond after such a speech?

*Personal Reflection: Have you ever felt like Job? What was your response?*

# Friends...In the Valley

Job 4:1-27:23

SERMON NOTES:



**WEEK BEGINNING:**

Monday 6th August

**Songs for the week:**

It Is Well

O Come to the Altar

**Bible readings:**

Monday: Job 12-14

Tuesday: Job 12-14

Wednesday: Job 15

Thursday: Job 16

Friday: Job 17

**Memory verse:**

Job 14:1-2 "Mortals, born of woman, are of few days and full of trouble. They spring up like flowers and wither away; like fleeting shadows, they do not endure."

**What's on:**

Mon 6th: Alpha PM Course Continues

Mon 6th: Belonging Course Concludes

Sat 11th: Basecamp Men's Conference

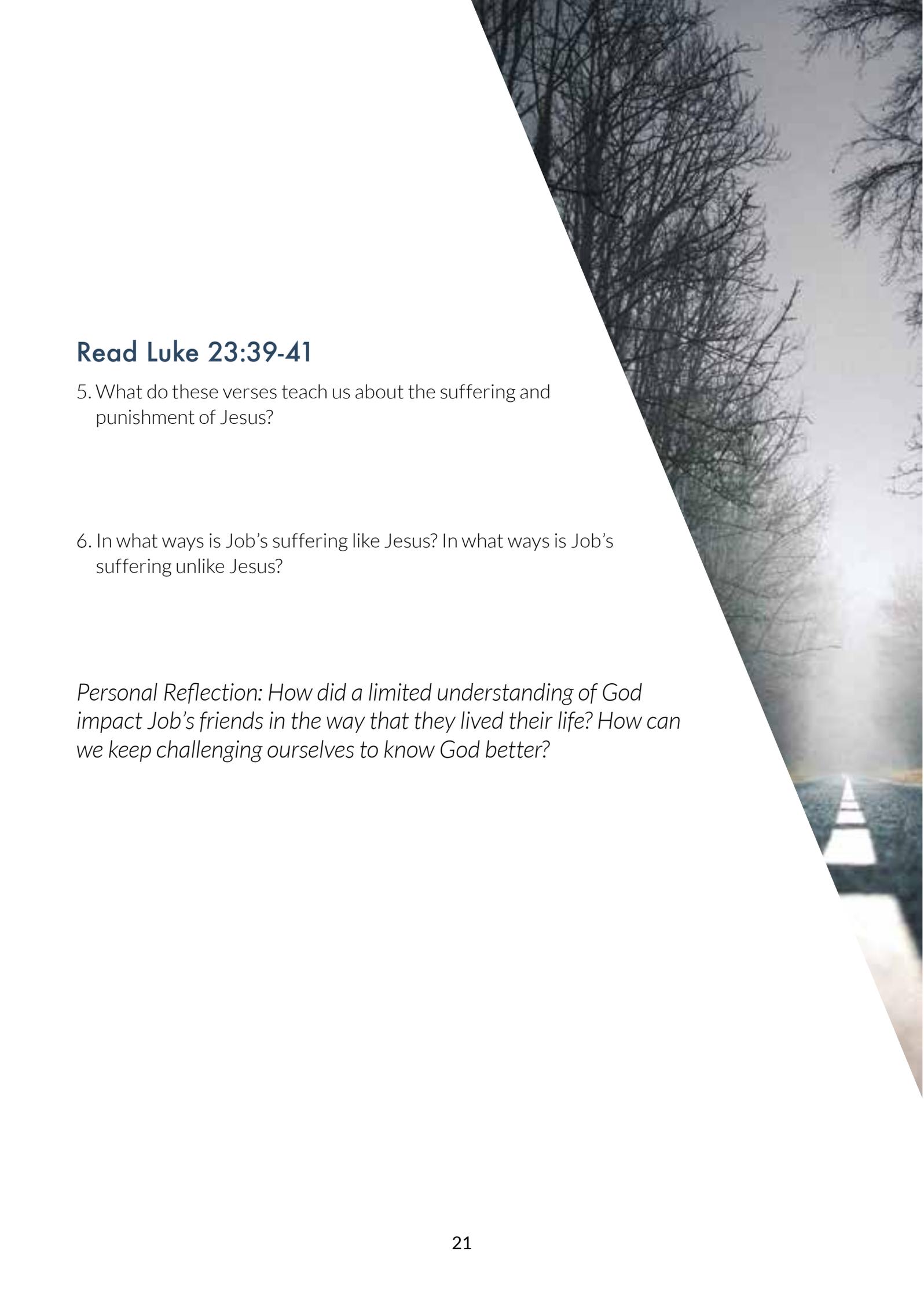
# Big idea:

## Suffering can happen to anyone, including the righteous.

*Discussion: What is the problem with sayings like, 'What goes around, comes around...' or 'If you do good things, good things will happen to you'?*

### Read Job 10:1-7

1. What reasons does Job give for his suffering?
2. Read Job 4:7-11 and 15:1-6. What do Job's friends believe about suffering in general? What do Job's friends believe to be the reason he suffers?
3. What extra information do we have (that Job and his friends don't) that tells us who is right/wrong? Will we always know?
4. What things should we consider if we are to declare ourselves undeserving of suffering, as Job is able to do?



## Read Luke 23:39-41

5. What do these verses teach us about the suffering and punishment of Jesus?
6. In what ways is Job's suffering like Jesus? In what ways is Job's suffering unlike Jesus?

*Personal Reflection: How did a limited understanding of God impact Job's friends in the way that they lived their life? How can we keep challenging ourselves to know God better?*

# Questions...In the Valley

Job 19

SERMON NOTES:



**WEEK BEGINNING:**

Monday 13th August

**Songs for the week:**

Jonah's Prayer

Who You Say I Am

**Bible readings:**

Monday: Job 18

Tuesday: Job 19

Wednesday: Job 20

Thursday: Job 21

Friday: Job 22

**Memory verse:**

Job 19:25-27 "I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!"

**What's on:**

Mon 13th: Alpha PM Course Continues

Thu 16th: God & Science Night

Sat 18th: Prayer Breakfast (Neutral Bay)

# Big idea:

## Job's response to his friends and God, reflects what he knows of God.

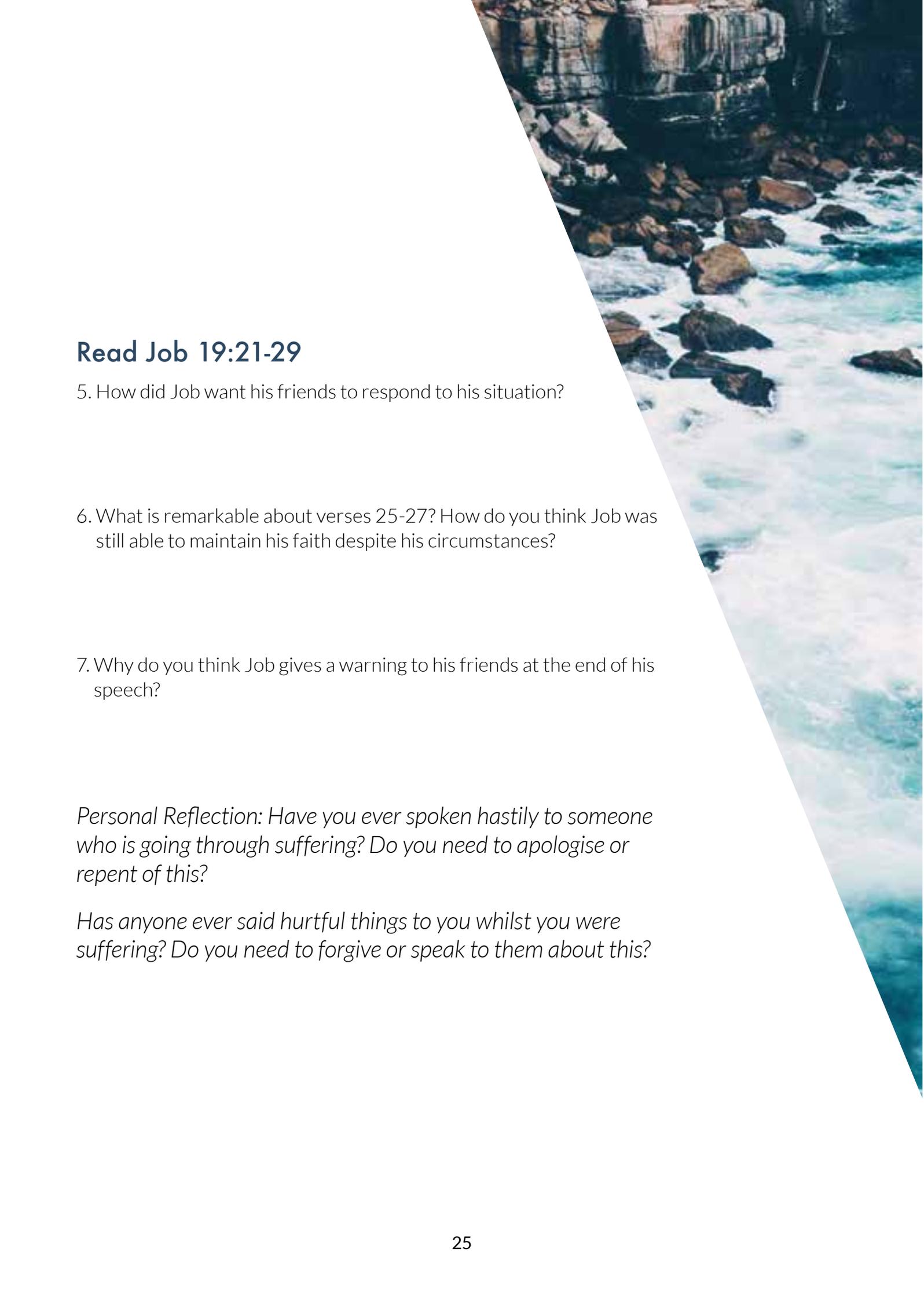
*Discussion: Have you ever experienced a time when people tried to explain to you (or you to them) why you were suffering? Was it helpful or not?*

### Read Job 19:1-6

1. How have the responses of his friends been unhelpful to Job? How has this added to his suffering?
2. What are some things we should consider when we speak to a friend's who is experiencing suffering in their life? Why must it be undertaken with great sensitivity and thought?

### Read Job 19:7-20

3. What are all the things that Job thinks God has done to him?
4. How have Job's friends, family and servants reacted to his situation?



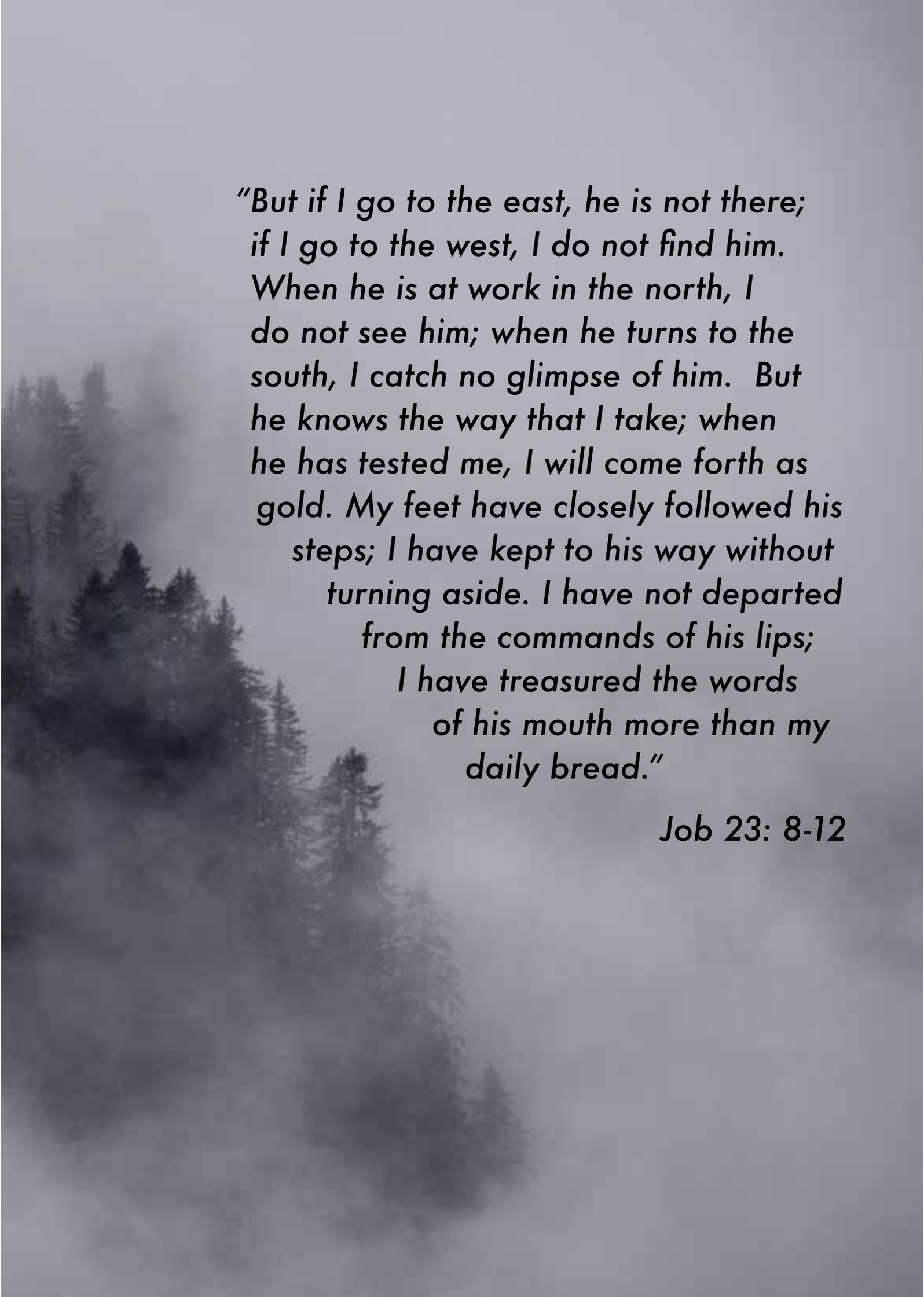
## Read Job 19:21-29

5. How did Job want his friends to respond to his situation?
6. What is remarkable about verses 25-27? How do you think Job was still able to maintain his faith despite his circumstances?
7. Why do you think Job gives a warning to his friends at the end of his speech?

*Personal Reflection: Have you ever spoken hastily to someone who is going through suffering? Do you need to apologise or repent of this?*

*Has anyone ever said hurtful things to you whilst you were suffering? Do you need to forgive or speak to them about this?*



A misty, foggy landscape with evergreen trees on a hillside. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

*"But if I go to the east, he is not there;  
if I go to the west, I do not find him.  
When he is at work in the north, I  
do not see him; when he turns to the  
south, I catch no glimpse of him. But  
he knows the way that I take; when  
he has tested me, I will come forth as  
gold. My feet have closely followed his  
steps; I have kept to his way without  
turning aside. I have not departed  
from the commands of his lips;  
I have treasured the words  
of his mouth more than my  
daily bread."*

*Job 23: 8-12*

# Wisdom...In the Valley

## Job 28

SERMON NOTES:



**WEEK BEGINNING:**

Monday 20th August

**Songs for the week:**

Lord, I Need You

Build My Life

**Bible readings:**

Monday: Job 23-24

Tuesday: Job 25

Wednesday: Job 26

Thursday: Job 27

Friday: Job 28

**Memory verse:**

Job 28:28 “And he said to the human race, “The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.”

**What's on:**

Mon 20th: Alpha PM Course Continues

Sat 25th: One Love Conference

Sat 26th: Kids Super Sunday

# Big idea:

## True wisdom is not omniscience but knowing God who is.

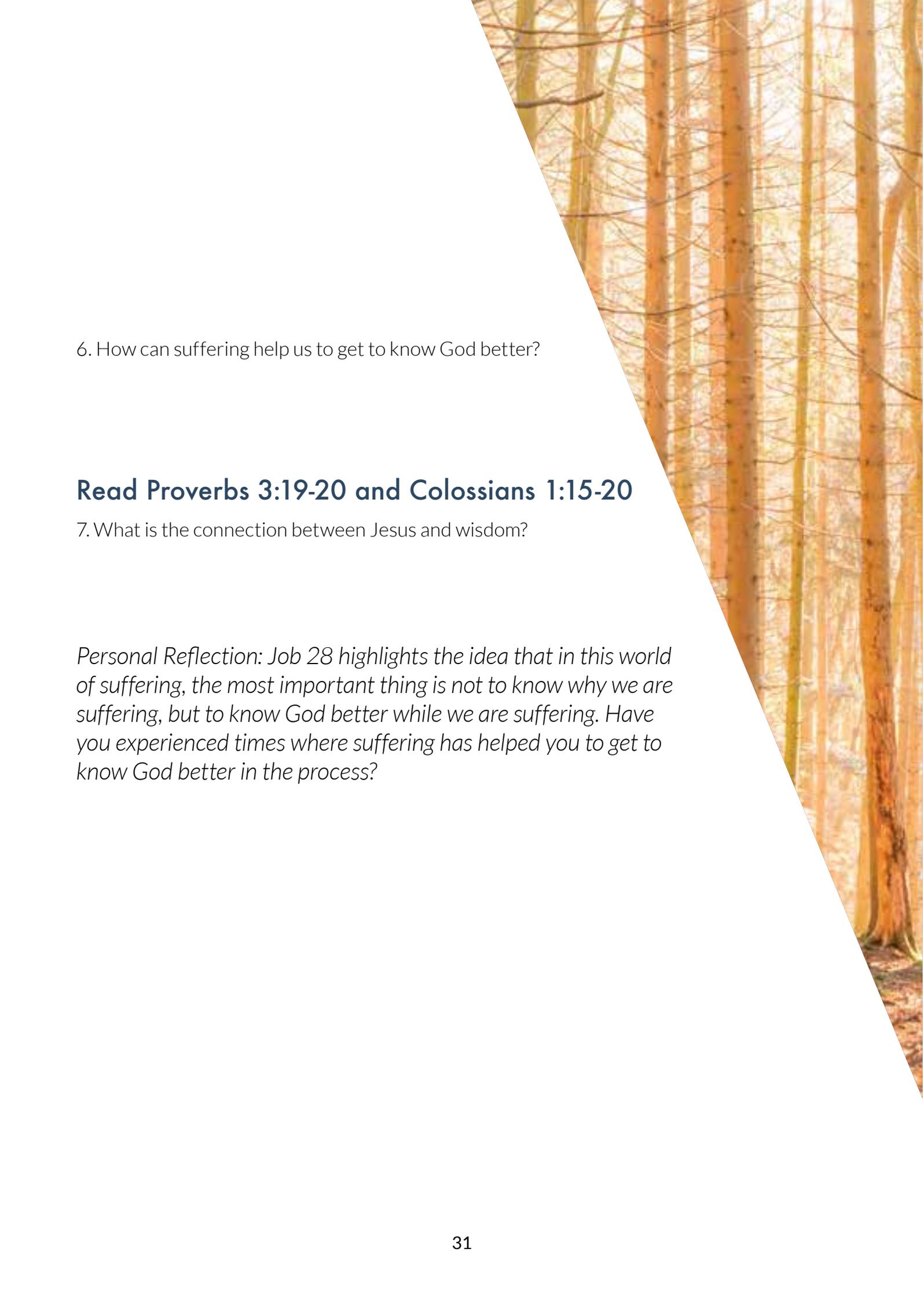
*Discussion: What do you think it means to be wise? Where do people go to look for wisdom?*

### Read Job 28:1-11

1. What things of value are these verses about? Where can they be found?
2. In what ways are man's achievements impressive?

### Read Job 28:12-28

3. What thing of value is now being discussed? Where can it be found?
4. What does it mean to fear the Lord?
5. Why does Job suddenly start to talk about wisdom? What is the connection between suffering and wisdom?



6. How can suffering help us to get to know God better?

**Read Proverbs 3:19-20 and Colossians 1:15-20**

7. What is the connection between Jesus and wisdom?

*Personal Reflection: Job 28 highlights the idea that in this world of suffering, the most important thing is not to know why we are suffering, but to know God better while we are suffering. Have you experienced times where suffering has helped you to get to know God better in the process?*

# Justice...In the Valley

Job 29-37

SERMON NOTES:

**WEEK BEGINNING:**

Monday 27th August

**Songs for the week:**

Jesus Paid it All

No Other Name

**Bible readings:**

Monday: Job 29

Tuesday: Job 30

Wednesday: Job 31

Thursday: Job 32

Friday: Job 33

**Memory verse:**

Job 33:12-14 “But I tell you, in this you are not right, for God is greater than any mortal. Why do you complain to him that he responds to no one’s words? For God does speak—now one way, now another—though no one perceives it.”

**What’s on:**

Mon 27th: Alpha PM Course Continues

# Big idea:

## Suffering comes regardless of sin but our response must not end in sin.

*Discussion: What are some common things that people say when they are suffering?*

### Read Job 30:15-31 and 31:5-12

1. In chapters 29-31, Job sums up his feelings about his situation. From the selected passages, how does Job feel about
  - a. His suffering?
  - b. Himself?
  - c. God?
  
2. Is there anything that Job says that you find difficult or makes you uncomfortable in these speeches?

### Read Job 32:1-5; 33:4

3. What things do we find out about Elihu, the new character? Who does he claim has sent him? What is his opinion about Job and his friends?

## Read Job 34

4. What is Elihu's understanding of what God is like?
  
5. According to Elihu
  - a. How does God deal with the humble (v31-33)?
  - b. How has Job sinned (v34-37)?
  
6. Is Elihu any different from his other friends in what he has said? Do you agree with Elihu?

*Personal Reflection: Have you said things to God in the midst of suffering that you have regretted? Take the time to repent and pray.*

# God...In the Valley

**Job 38-42:6**

SERMON NOTES:



**WEEK BEGINNING:**

Monday 3rd September

**Songs for the week:**

Cornerstone

What a Beautiful Name

**Bible readings:**

Monday: Job 34

Tuesday: Job 35

Wednesday: Job 36

Thursday: Job 37

Friday: Job 38

**Memory verse:**

Job 38:4 “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand.”

**What’s on:**

Mon 3rd: Alpha PM Course Concludes

Wed 5th: Central Prayer Meeting (Kirribilli)

Sat 8th: Working Bees (Kirribilli & Neutral Bay)

# Big idea:

## God speaks majestically into suffering.

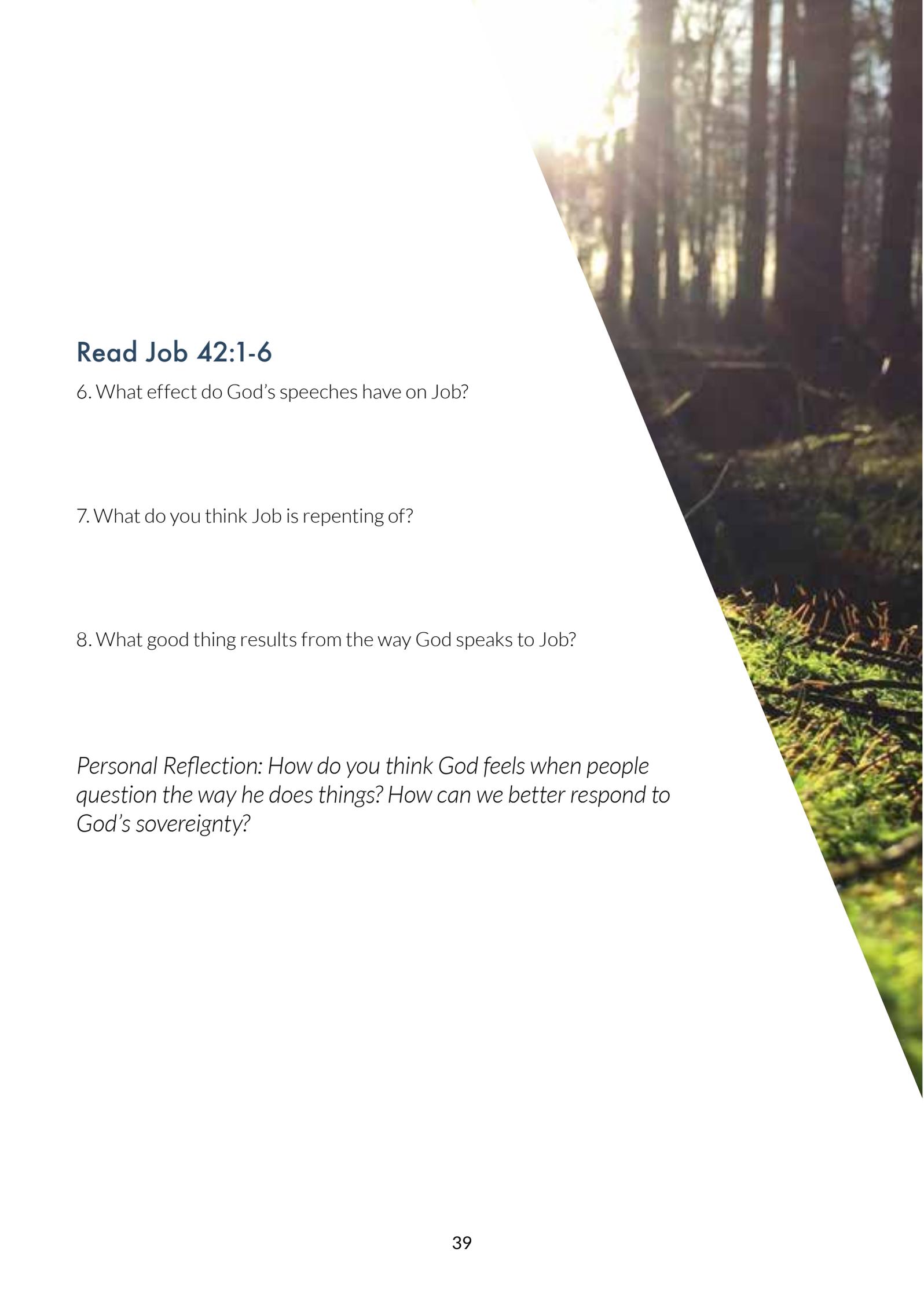
*Discussion: What is the most amazing thing you have seen in nature? What did that teach you about God?*

### **Read Job 38 & 40:1-6**

1. Why do you think God appears to Job 'out of a storm'?
2. What is the main theme of God's speech?
3. Why do you think God speaks like this? Why is God's response so strong?
4. How does Job respond when he hears from God?

### **Read Job 41:10-11**

5. What basic criticism does God make of Job?



## Read Job 42:1-6

6. What effect do God's speeches have on Job?

7. What do you think Job is repenting of?

8. What good thing results from the way God speaks to Job?

*Personal Reflection: How do you think God feels when people question the way he does things? How can we better respond to God's sovereignty?*

# Hope...In the Valley

Job 42:7-17

SERMON NOTES:



**WEEK BEGINNING:**

Monday 10th September

**Songs for the week:**

Jonah's Prayer

In God We Trust

**Bible readings:**

Monday: Job 39

Tuesday: Job 40

Wednesday: Job 41

Thursday: Job 42

Friday: James 5:10-11

**Memory verse:**

Job 42:5 "My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you."

**What's on:**

Mon 10th: Belonging Course Commences

Sat 15th: Prayer Breakfast (Neutral Bay)

Sat 15th / Sun 16th: Table for 8 Meals

Sun 16th: Baptism Sunday

# Big idea:

## Job's restoration shows who God is.

*Discussion: What's the best ending you've ever read in a book or seen in a film/TV show? Why?*

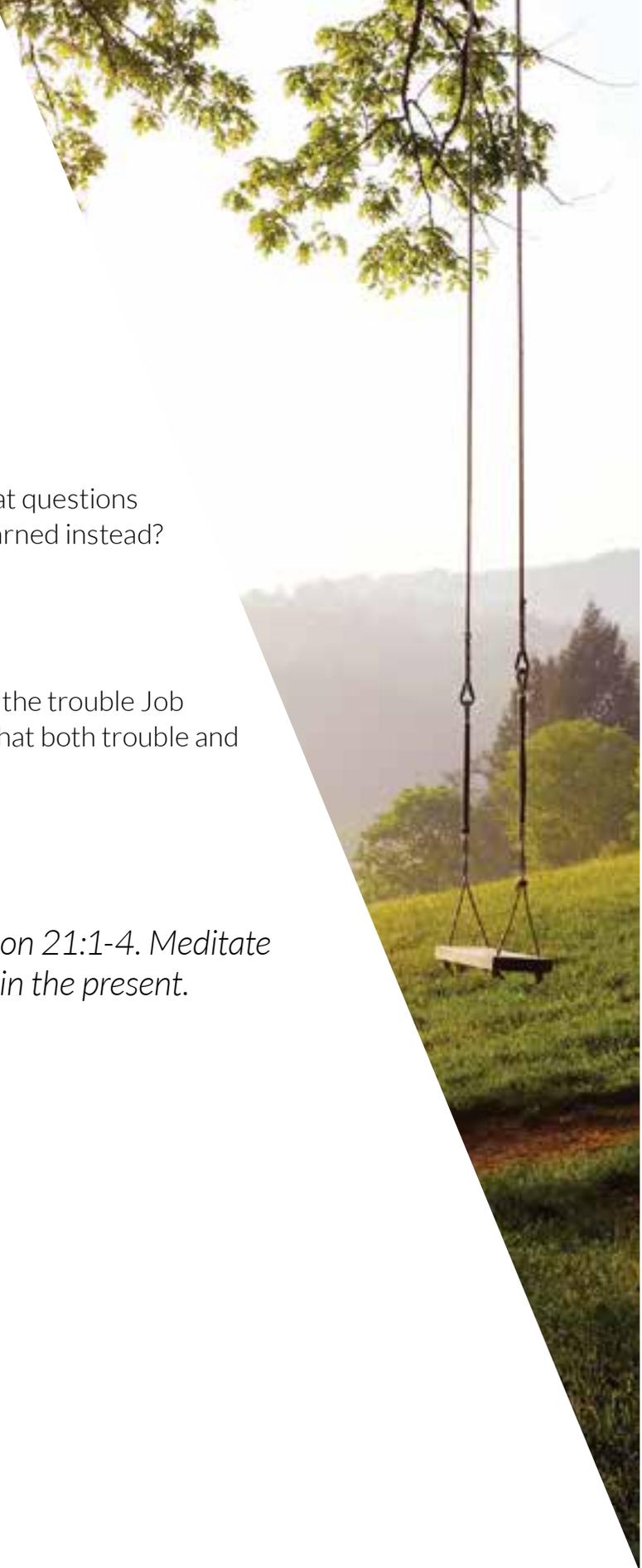
### Read Job 42:7-17

1. What is God's opinion of Job's friends?
2. What exactly did Job's friends get wrong about God?
3. How do you think Job's friends felt about their words?
4. Have you ever been able to forgive people for their hard words during suffering? Why is this difficult? What is Job's response to his friends?
5. How is Job restored? How does his final state compare to his state at the start of the book? Do you think that this makes up for his suffering?

6. How do you feel about the ending of Job? What questions have been left unanswered? What have we learned instead?

7. Verse 11 says that it was God who brought on the trouble Job experienced. How do you feel about the idea that both trouble and good times come from God?

*Personal Reflection: Read through Revelation 21:1-4. Meditate on the future and how that strengthens us in the present.*



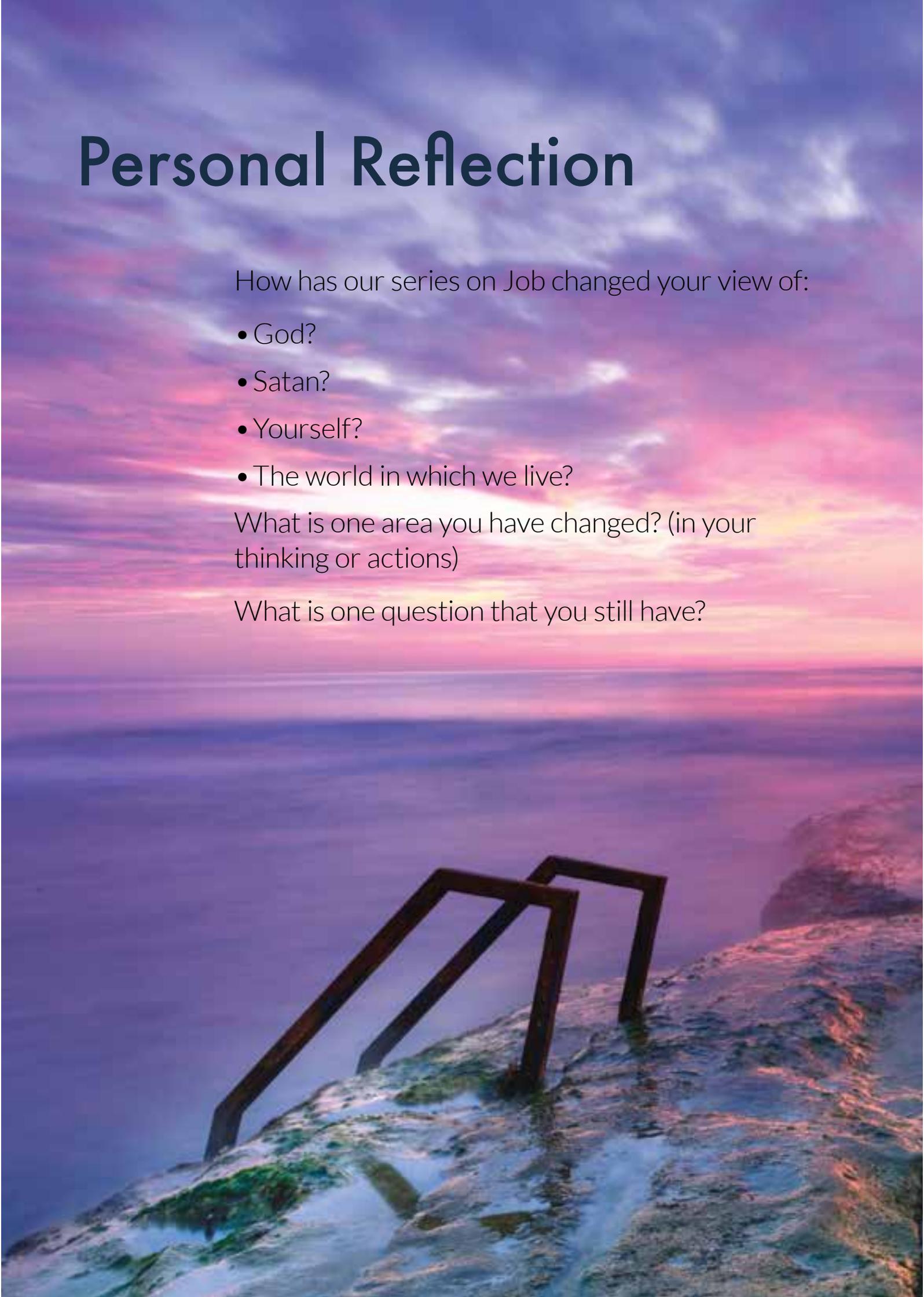
# Personal Reflection

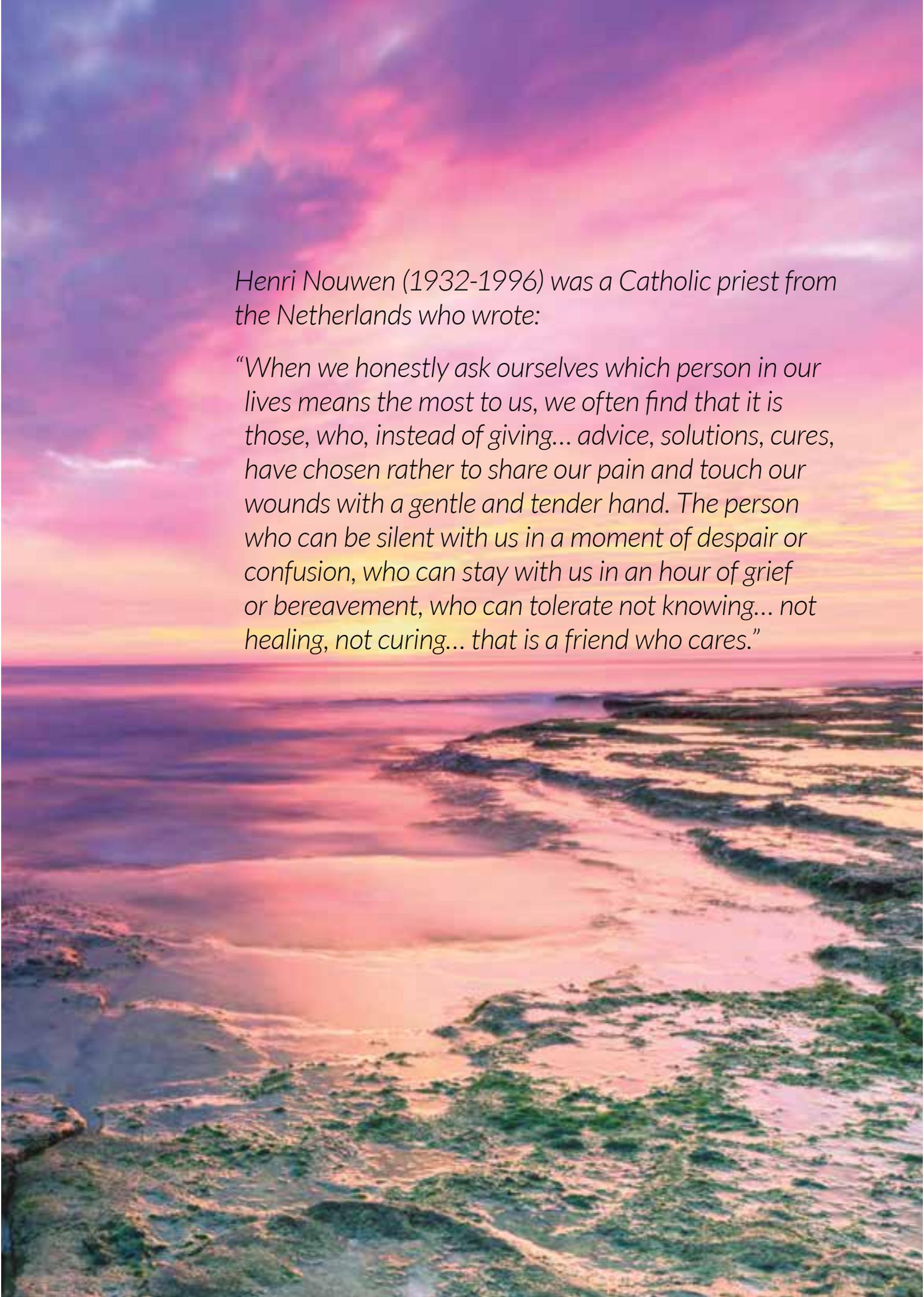
How has our series on Job changed your view of:

- God?
- Satan?
- Yourself?
- The world in which we live?

What is one area you have changed? (in your thinking or actions)

What is one question that you still have?



A dramatic sunset or sunrise over a coastal landscape. The sky is filled with vibrant, colorful clouds in shades of purple, pink, and orange. Below the horizon, a winding path or road cuts through a field of low-lying, green and brown vegetation, leading towards the sea. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

*Henri Nouwen (1932-1996) was a Catholic priest from the Netherlands who wrote:*

*“When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those, who, instead of giving... advice, solutions, cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a gentle and tender hand. The person who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief or bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing... not healing, not curing... that is a friend who cares.”*

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