



Devotional

April 12 - June 27

WEEK THREE (APRIL 26–MAY 2)

Day 117: April 26, 2020

Full Plan: Job 15:1–21:34

Abbreviated Plan: Job 30:1–31

Even Job's friends are against him, speaking more than listening, telling him it's his fault, and urging him to shake off the pain. They are unhelpful, and Job feels alone. Job 17 is as honest a look at the human condition as there is in the whole Bible. How might you befriend someone in need in a more helpful way than Job's friends?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 118: April 27, 2020

Full Plan: Job 22:1–31:40

Abbreviated Plan: Job 31:1–40

Job asserts his integrity. Everything was going wrong in his life, but he could still know that he was obeying God's laws the best he could. Our integrity might be all we have left, but that is enough. It's often the one thing we can control.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 119: April 28, 2020

Full Plan: Job 32:1–37:24

Abbreviated Plan: Job 38:1–41

Elihu offers what Job's three friends do not: a reminder of who God is. Job and his friends focused on Job's actions and qualities, looking for causes to his suffering. Elihu pointed to God, to remind them of God's goodness, mercy, and might. What difference does Elihu's words make in your times of suffering?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 120: April 29, 2020

Full Plan: Job 38:1–42:17

Abbreviated Plan: Job 39:1–30

God shows up to remind Job that he is not God. Amid suffering or change, we remember that we are not God; nor do we have to be. The implicit response to everything in this last reading is, "Only God can." And that is good news for us.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 121: April 30, 2020

Full Plan: Psalms 1:1–4:8

Abbreviated Plan: Job 40:1–24

Our enemies don't have to always be other people. They can be sadness, fear, loneliness, grief, and anxiety. The Psalms say that God is there to preserve us at all times from those enemies. That promise is ours to claim. What "enemies" are you facing today?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 122: May 1, 2020

Full Plan: Psalms 5:1–8:9

Abbreviated Plan: Job 41:1–34

Psalm 6 is for anyone struggling beyond words, weeping beyond tears, and longing for God to show up. It's a Psalm for the nighttime of the soul. It offers no false hope. It only offers this: God is listening, and that is all you need. Is that enough for you?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 123: May 2, 2020

Full Plan: Psalms 9:1–12:8

Abbreviated Plan: Job 42:1–17

The Psalms make it clear that God is always on the side of the oppressed. This begs the question, “How am I the oppressor? Or to what degree am I only thinking that I am oppressed, in order to curry favor from God?”

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

April 26–May 2, 2020: Weekly Devotion by John Dormois

The book of Job is an example of classic wisdom literature. The central issues focus on the question of divine justice and human suffering. Job has experienced extreme suffering as reflected by the loss of all his possessions and his children. As a man of great faith, he refutes the idea that his suffering has been inflicted by God and concludes that God is unjust. His friends, on the other hand, contend that God does run the world according to justice and therefore Job has sinned.

Job angrily asserts his innocence. He demands that God provide an explanation for his suffering: **I sign my defense, let the Almighty answer me** (Job 31.35).

God responds to Job by acknowledging the complexities of the world and pointing out to Job that he’s not in any sort of position to challenge God. God does not offer any explanation for why

suffering exists in the world (which is called the question of theodicy). God chastises the three friends of Job for saying things wrong about God. God honors Job for his suffering, his honesty, and his prayer.

The Psalms are a form of poetic discourse between Israel and God. They vary from prayers and praise to the deepest pain and distress. The first 12 Psalms vary in themes from songs of praise of God's power and justice to gratitude for deliverance illness, persecutors, and enemies.

Prayer thought for this week: The mystery of how to reconcile a loving, omnipotent, and all knowing God with suffering in the world remains. Have you experienced a spiritual struggle similar to that of Job? Do the Psalms offer solace in times of pain and suffering or words of praise in times of joy?

WEEK FOUR (MAY 3–9)

Day 124: May 3, 2020

Full Plan: Psalms 13:1–16:11

Abbreviated Plan: Psalms 1:1–6

Psalm 13 - There cannot be rebirth without lament. Lament honors life, and takes love and truth seriously. It acknowledges loss, so that we can then trust in God's faithful love into the future. In what ways are you lamenting today?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life: