

God can handle all our hard questions, doubts, fear, anger, confusion and grief as long as we don't stop communicating. God can't help us if we withhold ourselves from Him.

(Job) *"I can't be quiet! I'm angry and bitter. I have to speak!"*  
Job 7:11 (CEV)

Honesty is always the best policy with God. See Job 42:7.

**Q. What do the examples of Job, Jeremiah (Jer. 20:7), Naomi (Ruth 1:20-21) and David (Ps 88:15-18) teach us about the approachability of God? Have you felt you can be this honest with God too? Where would one want to draw the line?**

It's important to remember that although Job questioned God's actions, he never stopped trusting God. Although he didn't agree with God's justice, he never doubted God's love and was ultimately rewarded. See Job 42.

## 2. Praise God Despite your Circumstances.

Job said: *"I was born with nothing, and I'll die with nothing. The Lord gave, and now has taken away. **May His name be praised!**" In spite of everything that happened Job did not sin by blaming God."*  
Job 1:21-22 (TEV)

There are some things that happen in this world that may never make sense. Don't wait for an explanation. Learn to trust God more than your own understanding and personal circumstances. This is what Job did - eventually.

**Q. The book of Job raises the fundamental question in life, 'Will a person continue to worship God even if they lose everything?' This is the ultimate test of faith. Would you pass it?**

We will be able to praise God in spite of our circumstances only when we have faith that **our life circumstances do not change the truth about God.**

### Job praised God for six reasons?

- i. **God is good and loving.** Job 10:12 see also Romans 8:38 - 39
- ii. **God is all-powerful.** Job 36:22, 37:5, 23
- iii. **God knows every detail of my life.** Job 23:10, 31:4
- iv. **God is in control.** Job 34:13
- v. **God has a plan for our lives.** Job 23:14
- vi. **God promises to protect us.** Job 5:7

Habakkuk was another who complained to God about the injustices of life. Like Job, Habakkuk came to understand that trusting God was the answer to all his questions.

*"Even though the fig trees have no fruit and no grapes grow on the vine, even though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no grain, even though the sheep all die and the cattle stalls are empty, I'll be joyful and glad, because the Lord God is my Saviour."* Hab. 3:17-18 (TEV)

The age-old question – **'Why does God allow evil'?** Can be answered with a simple recognition that - **evil has infected us all.**

For God to get rid of evil in the world He would have to deny us the right to make choices. God won't do this because **good is also a choice** and He wants us to love **Him** by choice. A choice for God is a choice for good, which will always overcome evil in the end. (Matt. 13:24 – 30)

## 3. Ask God for Strength and Help.

*"God is the real source of wisdom and strength."* Job 12:13 (CEV)

When your heart is breaking and when you are confused and angry because of a tragedy, **don't turn away from God, turn towards Him.** Learn to do this now so that trust will come naturally in a time of crisis. A crisis is not a good time to prepare for a crisis.

*"Look to the Lord and His strength."* Ps 105:4 (NIV)

*"So here I am in the place of worship, eyes open, drinking in your strength and glory."* Ps 63:2 (Msg.)

**Q. What promises of God do you have stored away in your heart, ready to bring to mind when you need them in a crisis? If you don't know any verses that offer encouragement and inspiration why not try and learn a few?**

*"The Lord saves good people; He is their strength in time of trouble."*  
Ps 37:39 (NCV)

## 4. Keep Focused on God and His Promises.

*"Therefore, **we do not lose heart...** For our **light and momentary troubles** are achieving for us an **eternal glory** that far outweighs them all. So we **fix our eyes** not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."* 2 Cor. 4:16-18 (NIV)

### Three reasons not to be discouraged

- i. **Our troubles are temporary.**

- ii. **God use our troubles for a greater purpose.**
- iii. **We know to keep our eyes on God.**

There are over 6000 promises of God and many wonderful principles for life in the Bible. But unless we are reading the Bible how can we know, much less remember, what they are?

The purpose of terrorism is to destabilise and even cause people to lose hope. The way to keep ourselves from becoming discouraged in life is to focus on God who is the source of hope.

Jesus invites us to build our lives on a foundation that cannot be shaken.

Jesus *“(By) trusting me you will be unshakeable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I have conquered the world.”* Jn. 16:33 (Msg.)

Our hope is not in the resources of this world but in an unshakeable kingdom – i.e. the place where God is in charge.

*“Do you see what we’ve got? **An unshakeable kingdom!** And do you see how thankful we must be? Not only thankful, but brimming with worship, deeply reverent before God!”* Heb. 12:28 (Msg.)

**Q. You know about your physical birth but do you have citizenship in God’s unshakeable kingdom through a spiritual rebirth? Do you see what you’ve got? See John 3:1 - 8**

The secret of surviving any tragedy in life is to focus on our Creator - not on the circumstances that bring conflict.

If we focus on life’s trials and tragedies, we will probably be overwhelmed by them but if we focus on our Creator we will see them in a proper perspective and be encouraged.

As the Psalmist says, *“Those who worship God will be encouraged”*. PS.69:32 TEV

### **Prayer**

*Dear Lord, we are reminded again of how brief life really is. Lord, it’s so important that I’m able to connect with you, to have a relationship with you that will last forever.*

*Thank you for creating me and loving me and for sending Jesus to die for me. Help me to get to know and trust you in deeper and deeper ways. Give me the strength that I need to continually focus on and worship you in spite of anything that may happen to me or around me. I pray this in Jesus name. Amen.*

## **Sermon Outline and Questions**

### **Finding God - in a Crisis**

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

Personal tragedy is never far from any of us. We are all going to lose loved ones and things are going to go wrong for us as a normal consequence of life.

What are we to do in a time of crisis? This question was asked thousands of years ago by a young man who would later become Israel’s greatest king.

(David) *“When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?”* Ps 11:3 (NIV)

The Bible’s answer to this question has always been the same.

*“Go to the Lord for help and **worship Him.**”* 1 Chr. 16:11 (TEV)

*“Worship opens the door to all His goodness.”* Ps 34:8 (Msg.)

**Q What has been the darkest time in your life? Was it difficult or easy for you ‘to go to the Lord for help and worship Him’?**

Job was the wealthiest man of his age and one day he lost everything to terrorists. Despite his great loss, Job’s first reaction was to resist his wife’s counsel to curse God, choosing instead to turn to God and worship him. Read Job 1:1-2:10.

### **How do I worship God in a tragedy?**

#### **1. Tell God How You Feel.**

*“Cry out in the night... Pour out your heart like water in prayer to the Lord.”* Lam 2:19 (NCV)

Tell God about all of the emotions that are bottled up inside of you.

- i. **Anger:** God gets angry when He sees innocent people suffer. Love demands that we get angry too. If we don’t feel angry when bad things happen to good people, it probably means we are apathetic i.e. we don’t care. See Mark.9:42; Eph. 4:26.
- ii. **Grief:** God’s way of bringing healing.
- iii. **Shock or Disbelief:** “I never thought this could happen to me.”
- iv. **Anxiety and Fear:** No one of us knows what’s going to happen next.