

# Lesson 1: “The ‘Patience’ of Job?”

## Job 1-3; 42:7-9

1. Read Job 1-3 and 42:7-9. Use your outline to make notes and comments for class discussions.
2. Read Lesson 1 in your “Journey Through The Bible” study book.
3. Answer questions in Dimension 1.
4. Consider the following questions:
  - a. Have you ever been called on to “comfort” or to respond to someone else when he or she had experienced a devastating loss? What did you say? Why?
  - b. Have you had any times in your life when you felt like Job does in Chapter 3 (he wishes he had not been born)?
  - c. How did other people respond to you at those times? What did friends, family, fellow church members, or people in helping professions say to you? How did their advice make you feel? Better? Worse? Did their words make you feel guilty (as though you were doing something wrong), or did they make you feel even more free to express your innermost thoughts?
  - d. What are the benefits and what are the problems associated with Job’s first type of response (“The Lord gave, the Lord has taken away”) in 1:21?
  - e. What are the benefits and the problems associated with Job’s second type of response (his lament)?
  - f. Consider Job 1:6-12. Who was to blame for all Job’s misfortunes?
  - g. What does it mean that the Lord, not Satan, initiates the testing of Job? What limits does God place on Satan?
  - h. When bad things happen to good people, whom do you blame?
  - i. Consider Job 3:11-12, 16, 20-23. How do *you* respond to rhetorical questions, such as Job asks? Why does he use them? When would you sue them? Who do you expect to answer?