

The background of the entire poster is a dramatic, teal-toned image of a stormy sea. In the upper half, dark, swirling clouds are illuminated from below, creating a sense of a storm brewing. The middle section shows the turbulent surface of the water with white foam from breaking waves. In the lower half, the water is dark and murky, with a single hand reaching up from the depths, palm facing forward, as if seeking help or reaching for light. The overall mood is one of struggle, hope, and divine intervention.

OUT OF THE STORM

JOB & JONAH

ev / church

JOB & JONAH: OUT OF THE STORM

TERM 3	PASSAGE	
Week 1	Job 1 and 2	Righteous Suffering
Week 2	Job 3	Righteous Sorrow
Week 3	Job 4-37	Why do we Suffer?
Week 4	Job 19	Is God Unjust?
Week 5	Job 38-42	Out of the Storm
Week 6	Job 42	God's Kindness
Week 7	Job 28	Wisdom
Week 8	Jonah 1 and 2	Jonah at Sea
Week 9	Jonah 3	Jonah at Nineveh
Week 10	Jonah 4	Jonah's Unjust Anger

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

Pray for three friends, once a week, for one minute (3-1-1).

List the names of your family and friends here:

TERM 3 – 2022

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

1. Personal reading

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His word.

2. Growth Groups

- Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. Church

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



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READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

Something you might like to use to extend your daily Bible reading.

The Bible is truly an extraordinary book, unique among all other books. It consists of 66 individual books, written by 40 different authors, in three different languages across 1,500 years of history. Yet for all of this diversity it contains a unified message that focuses on the coming of Jesus and the amazing salvation He offers through His death and resurrection!

The Bible contains words written by men in all the richness of literary types making it fun, challenging and enjoyable to dig into. Yet, at the same time, the Bible is also the very words of God given to us by His Spirit (1 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). These are not just words spoken in times past, but words that are alive for us to read today (Hebrews 4:12-13). The God of the universe actually addresses us today clearly in the pages of the Bible – amazing!

Jesus says the entire Bible points us to Him, that He is the focal point of it all. Listen to what He says, “He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” (Luke 24:44). Or, again Jesus says, “You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.” (John 5:39-40).

Knowing this is helpful in motivating us to read the Bible regularly, to keep building a bigger understanding of God’s purposes and how they are being fulfilled in Jesus. To help with this, the Daily Reading Notes now include an extra challenge: to read the whole Bible in two years. It’s totally optional, are you up for it?

There is a list of around 15 chapters of additional reading for each week of the term that will help you achieve this challenge. These readings can be done on whatever days work best and in whatever order you prefer to read them. At the end of each term you have a chance to catch up before the next term’s suggested readings begin again. You can also track your readings across the two years right here. Enjoy!

YEAR 1: TERM 1

Week 1	Genesis 1-5; Psalms 1-4; Genesis 5-10; Matthew 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Genesis 11-15; Psalms 5-7; Genesis 16-20; Matthew 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Genesis 21-25; Psalms 8-10; Genesis 26-30; Matthew 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Genesis 31-35; Psalms 11-16; Genesis 36-40; Matthew 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week 5	Genesis 41-45; Psalms 17-19; Genesis 46-50; Matthew 10-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Exodus 1-5; Psalms 20-24; Exodus 6-10; Matthew 12-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Exodus 11-15; Psalms 25-27; Exodus 16-20; Matthew 14-15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Exodus 21-25; Psalms 28-31; Exodus 26-30; Matthew 16-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Exodus 31-35; Psalms 32-34; Exodus 36-40; Matthew 18-19	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Leviticus 1-5; Psalms 35-37; Leviticus 6-10; Matthew 20-21	<input type="checkbox"/>

YEAR 1: TERM 2

Week 1	Leviticus 11-15; Psalms 38-41; Leviticus 16-20; Matthew 22-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Leviticus 21-27; Numbers 1-3; Proverbs 1-3; Matthew 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Numbers 4-13; Proverbs 4-6; Matthew 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Numbers 14-23; Proverbs 7-9; Acts 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Numbers 24-33; Psalms 42-44; Acts 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Numbers 34-36; Psalms 45-48; Acts 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Deuteronomy 1-7; Psalms 49-51; Acts 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Deuteronomy 8-17; Psalms 52-54; Acts 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Deuteronomy 18-27; Psalms 55-57; Acts 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Deuteronomy 28-34; Joshua 1-3; Psalms 58-61; Acts 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>

YEAR 1: TERM 3

Week 1	Joshua 4-13; Psalms 62-65; Acts 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Joshua 14-23; Psalms 66-68; Acts 17-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Joshua 24; Judges 1-9; Psalms 69-71; Acts 19-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Judges 10-19; Psalms 72; Proverbs 10-11; Acts 21-22	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Judges 20-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-4; Proverbs 12-14; Acts 23-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	1 Samuel 5-14; Proverbs 15-17; Acts 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	1 Samuel 15-24; Proverbs 18-20; Acts 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	1 Samuel 25-31; 2 Samuel 1-3; Proverbs 21-22; Mark 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	2 Samuel 4-13; Psalms 73-75; Mark 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	2 Samuel 14-24; Psalms 76-77; Mark 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>

READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

YEAR 1: TERM 4

Week 1	1 Kings 1-5; Psalms 78-80; 1 Kings 6-10; Mark 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	1 Kings 11-15; Psalms 81-83; 1 Kings 16-20; Mark 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	1 Kings 21-22; 2 Kings 1-8; Psalms 84-86; Mark 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	2 Kings 9-13; Psalms 87-89; 2 Kings 14-18; Mark 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	2 Kings 19-25; 1 Chronicles 1-3; Psalms 90-93; Mark 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	1 Chronicles 4-8; Psalms 94-96; 1 Chronicles 9-13; Romans 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	1 Chronicles 14-18; Psalms 97-101; 1 Chronicles 19-23; Romans 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	1 Chronicles 24-29; Psalms 102-104; Romans 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	2 Chronicles 1-5; Psalms 105-106; 2 Chronicles 6-10; Romans 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	2 Chronicles 11-15; Proverbs 23-25; 2 Chronicles 16-20; Romans 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>

YEAR 2: TERM 1

Week 1	2 Chronicles 21-25; Proverbs 26-28; 2 Chronicles 26-30; Romans 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	2 Chronicles 31-36; Ezra 1-4; Proverbs 29-31; Romans 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Ezra 5-10; Nehemiah 1-4; Psalms 107-109; Romans 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Nehemiah 5-13; Psalms 110-113; 1 Corinthians 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Esther 1-10; Psalms 114-117; 1 Corinthians 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Job 1-5; Psalms 118; Job 6-10; 1 Corinthians 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Job 11-15; Psalms 119:1-48; Job 16-20; 1 Corinthians 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Job 21-25; Psalms 119:49-96; Job 26-30; 1 Corinthians 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Job 31-35; Psalms 119:97-144; Job 36-40; 1 Corinthians 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Job 41-42; Ecclesiastes 1-8; Psalms 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>

YEAR 2: TERM 2

Week 1	Ecclesiastes 9-12; Song of Songs 1-5; Psalms 120-122; 1 Cor 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Songs of Songs 6-8; Isaiah 1-7; Psalms 123-125; Luke 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Isaiah 8-12; Psalms 126-130; Isaiah 13-17; Luke 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Isaiah 18-22; Psalms 131-135; Isaiah 23-27; Luke 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week 5	Isaiah 28-32; Psalms 136-138; Isaiah 33-37; Luke 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Isaiah 38-42; Psalms 139-142; Isaiah 43-47; Luke 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Isaiah 48-52; Psalms 143-145; Isaiah 53-57; Luke 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Isaiah 58-62; Psalms 146-147; Isaiah 63-66; Luke 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Jeremiah 1-5; Psalms 148-150; Jeremiah 6-10; Luke 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Jeremiah 11-15; Luke 17-21; Jeremiah 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/>

YEAR 2: TERM 3

Week 1	Jeremiah 21-25; Luke 21-24; Jeremiah 26-30; 2 Corinthians 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Jeremiah 31-35; 2 Corinthians 2-7; Jeremiah 36-40	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Jeremiah 41-45; 2 Corinthians 8-13; Jeremiah 46-50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5; Galatians 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6; Ezekiel 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4; Ezekiel 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4; Ezekiel 26-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5; Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3, Philemon	<input type="checkbox"/>

YEAR 2: TERM 4

Week 1	Daniel 11-12; Hosea 1-8; Hebrews 1-7	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Hosea 9-14; Joel 1-3; Hebrews 8-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Amos 1-9; James 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Obadiah; Jonah 1-4; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John; 2 John; 3 John	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-3; Jude; Revelation 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 19:11-22:21	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Haggai 1-2; John 1-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Zechariah 1-14; John 13-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Malachi 1-4; John 18-21	<input type="checkbox"/>

INTRODUCTION: JOB

Why do we suffer? Why does God allow suffering to happen in His world? Is it right for God to let people suffer? Do only bad people suffer? Is there a cosmological battle between good and evil which brings about our suffering? Is our suffering our own fault? Why has God done this to me?

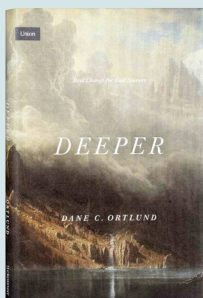
This book introduces us to a man named Job, a "blameless and upright [man, who] feared God and shunned evil" (Job 1:1). Despite being clearly one of the good guys, Job experiences the most extreme suffering we could possibly imagine. He loses his wealth, his possessions, his health, his children, his wife, and his reputation... he is left with nothing. Why has God done this? Will Job lose his faith in God also? [Job didn't lose his wife like he lost his children (to death) but it is fair to say he lost her and that relationship. Though not explicit, it seems she leaves him and doesn't reappear in the story.]

There are all sorts of questions to do with suffering which arise out of our world and experience. Some questions are "armchair" questions. These are the questions we ask out of a desire to probe philosophically into the nature of God and our reality, distanced from any immediate personal struggle. The other type are "wheelchair" questions. These are the questions we ask amidst real, personal and painful suffering, the kind where we find ourselves crying out to God in anguish, desperate for answers (Ash 2014, 18-19).

The book of Job takes us deep into a man's struggle with both his peers and his God from the wheelchair. Job's very real and very human example pushes the boundaries of what we might think appropriate, and yet he is ultimately vindicated in his approach (Job 42:7-8) and is even considered an example to follow of godly perseverance (James 5:11). This book will force us to reflect on a more complex way of wrestling with our God amidst our own suffering, which is beyond the superficial.

Many come to the book of Job seeking a definitive answer for their own suffering in the suffering of Job. Such people are largely left wanting and dissatisfied with God's eventual response. While the book has much to say on the topic of suffering, its principle purpose is not to give an explanation of suffering. Rather, the book of Job is written as a theodicy; a defence of God's justice in allowing suffering to occur, and a call to trust in His ways as good and right, regardless of what we might think and feel in our own limitations.

If you come to Job with the humility that Job himself ultimately displays, you will not be left wanting at all. The book of Job will teach you everything you need to trust God amidst your own suffering.



Book recommendation: *Deeper by Dane Ortlund*

Dane Ortlund's book "Deeper" takes us into the deep teaching of the Bible on how we grow in grace - most fundamentally, by enjoying all that is already ours in Christ. Ortlund does this by digging into the "fullness of Christ", the emptiness of self-reliance, and our need for union and communion with God. Our growth does not happen by doing more or becoming better, but by going deeper into the wondrous gospel truths that washed over us when we were first united to Christ. Each of these 9 chapters encourage readers to fix our gaze on Jesus in the battle against sin, casting ourselves upon His grace.

WEEK 1: JOB 1 AND 2

DAY 1

Open in Prayer and Read Job 1:1-5

1. One day when you are long gone, what do you hope to be remembered for?
2. List what we're told about Job in these verses.
3. Which detail(s) do you find most impressive? Why?
4. What are some ways you could grow in godliness by Job's example?

Prayer: Pray that God would help you grow in the things you have mentioned. Perhaps you could spend some time planning how you might do that with God's help.

RIGHTEOUS SUFFERING

DAY 2

Open in Prayer and

Read Job 1:6-12

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Jeremiah 21-25; Luke 21-24;
Jeremiah 26-30; 2 Corinthians 1

The presence of Satan in this heavenly scene may cause us to ask a lot of questions, which the author isn't seeking to answer. It may be helpful to know these two things as you consider the passage:

- A more literal translation of 'the satan' would read 'the accuser.' The use of this language is to identify this character as playing the role of 'the satan' (being 'the accuser') rather than 'the satan' being used to identify the character as the one who is known by the name "Satan" (like NIV translates, or as we might say "the Devil").
- There is still debate about whether 'the accuser' belongs as a member of the heavenly council, or whether he is an intruder.

What is clear is that 'the satan' is present in this heavenly scene, and is bringing an accusation about Job to God.

1. What details about Job are repeated from yesterday's passage?
2. What is the heart of the satan's accusation?
3. Can you think of times in your Christian life when it felt like God had a "hedge" around you? How did that impact your faith?
4. As you reflect through your life, what are some good things that God has given you?

Prayer: Thank God for the good things that he has graciously given you. Ask that He would help you remember that He is the giver of all good things.

WEEK 1: JOB 1 AND 2

DAY 3

Open in Prayer and Read Job 1:13-22

1. What were your reactions as you read this passage? Write down each reaction.
2. What do you think caused each of those reactions?
3. Put yourself in Job's shoes... How do you think you would have responded to the barrage of messengers? What can you take away from Job's example here?
4. "In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing." Can you think of times where you have sinned in suffering?

Prayer: Pray to God and repent of any wrongdoing that you might have done toward God in hard times, and ask that God would help you to have Job's attitude toward Him, even in the hardest trials of life. You might like to jot down any big questions you have from this passage for Growth Group or from Sunday's sermon.

RIGHTEOUS SUFFERING

DAY 4

Open in Prayer and Read Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-6

See the note on Day 2 about the presence of Satan in this heavenly scene.

1. What happens between these two scenes to challenge the satan's first accusation (recall Day 2)? How does the satan nuance his accusation in the second scene?
2. Who causes Job's suffering? What evidence can you gather from the passage to support your answer? (If you have time, compare 1:11-12, 1:15-17, 1:19, 1:21; 2:5-7, 2:9-10.)
3. What can we learn about God's power and sovereignty from these verses?
4. If Job could have had our insight into these heavenly scenes, how do you think it would have affected him? How might reflecting on these scenes help you in your own sufferings?

Prayer: Thank God for His power and sovereignty over all things, even the unseen spiritual powers of this world. Pray for help to always trust God whenever you suffer.

WEEK 1: JOB 1 AND 2

DAY 5

Open in Prayer and Read Job 2:1-10

1. What are the ways the satan tempts Job to sin in this passage?
2. Why do you think Job's wife gives that advice to Job?
3. How does Job's response in verse 10 challenge some common views of God's role in suffering today?
4. Count how many times Job's righteousness has been affirmed so far in the book and take note of who affirms it. Why do you think this has been repeated?

Prayer: Pray that God would help keep you from sinning in the face of temptation. Thank God for Jesus' sinless life and undeserved death, which means you have been forgiven!

RIGHTEOUS SUFFERING

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 2: JOB 3

DAY 1

Open in Prayer and Read Job 2:7-13

1. Which detail or image most captures you from today's passage?
2. Compare Job's wife's response and the response of his three friends.
 - a. How would you characterise each response?
 - b. Why do you think their responses differed?
 - c. Which response do you resonate with? Why?
 - d. Do you think the friend's silence is a good thing, or a bad thing? Why?
3. Are there times in your life where you can remember being left speechless by someone's suffering?

Prayer: Spend some time praying for those around you who are suffering, or for those with whom you have suffered in the past.

RIGHTEOUS SORROW

DAY 2

Open in Prayer and Read Job 3:1-10

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Jeremiah 31-35; 2 Corinthians 2-7;
Jeremiah 36-40

1. In these first 10 verses, Job cries out a long and painful curse. How would you summarise his curse in your own words?

2. Job frequently uses the image of light and dark, day and night. Take some time to read over each time he uses this imagery, and consider:
 - a. What meaning is Job conveying through the use of this imagery?

 - b. How are you left feeling after all this?

3. Do you think the narrator could write "in all this Job did not sin" after this section of verses? Why/ Why not?

Prayer: Are you suffering? Cry out to God in sorrowful prayer. Thank God that in Jesus He has given us a solid hope when all suffering will cease (see Revelation 21:4).

WEEK 2: JOB 3

DAY 3

In today's passage, Job speaks about barrenness, death in infancy and suicidal thoughts. You may find his language challenging. It is worth remembering that "all scripture is God breathed and is useful" for our growth as disciples (2 Timothy 3:16). Pray that God would be your help today as you read and grow.

Open in Prayer and Read Job 3:11-19

1. Job uses some very strong language in his sorrow. What is your reaction to reading it?
2. What do you find helpful about how Job expresses his anguish?
3. What do you find challenging about how Job expresses his anguish?
4. Do you think the narrator could write "in all this Job did not sin" after this section of verses? Why/ Why not?

Prayer: Pray for those who are amidst intense suffering. Pray for the many women and families at our church who are experiencing the grief of infertility, or losing an infant or a child.

RIGHTEOUS SORROW

DAY 4

Open in Prayer and Read Job 3:1-26

1. This chapter is full of sorrow-filled despair and anguish. What hope does Job repeatedly hold out for himself in all of this?
2. How is our hope as Christians today different from Job's hope (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)? How ought this impact our view of suffering (see 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)?
3. Despite Job's despair of his very life and existence, he doesn't take his own life. Focusing on verses 20-26, why do you think he doesn't even consider it an option?
4. Do you think the narrator could write "in all this Job did not sin" after this section of verses? Why/ Why not?

Prayer: Thank God for the hope we have in Jesus Christ. Pray that you would hold this conviction deeply through all of life's troubles.

WEEK 2: JOB 3

DAY 5

Open in Prayer and Read Matthew 26:36-39 and 27:45-46

1. How does Jesus' sorrow in these verses remind you of Job's sorrow?
2. What similarities and differences are there between what we know of Job and his suffering so far, and what you know about Jesus Christ and His suffering?
3. What do you find striking/helpful/encouraging about reading of Jesus' sorrow and anguish as He heads to and hangs on the cross?

Prayer: Thank Jesus for His faithfulness to God through suffering, and the salvation He won for you by persevering through it.

RIGHTEOUS SORROW

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 3: JOB 4-37

The bulk of the book of Job (Job 4-37) contains the dialogue of an argument between Job and his friends trying to make sense of the suffering that has come upon Job.

The arguments move between four assertions to try to answer the question, "why is Job suffering?". These four assertions are:

- 1. God is sovereign;
- 2. God is just;
- 3. The Retribution Principle is always true; and
- 4. Job is righteous.

By the end of the next two weeks, we should be able to summarise the logic of each character's arguments using the wording of the four assertions above. (E.g. "This person believes that Job is righteous, that the Retribution Principle is always true and that God is just. So he concludes that God mustn't be sovereign over Job's situation.")

	Eliphaz, Zophar, and Bildad	Elihu
God is sovereign		
God is just		
The retribution principle is always true		
Job is righteous		

WHY DO WE SUFFER?

As you read through the next two weeks of notes, we will be returning to this page frequently to take note of which assertions each character agrees with and disagrees with; which statements they base their argument on, and which statements they try to tear down.

Use the table provided below to jot down your thoughts and observations as we go, so that you can get an overview by the end of our time in these chapters.

Summary of Eliphaz, Zophar, and Bildad's argument:

Summary of Elihu's argument:

Summary of Job's argument:

Summary of God's argument:

Job	God

WEEK 3: JOB 4-37

DAY 1: The Retribution Principle

Today, we will be looking at what is known as the "Mosaic Covenant." Understanding the conditions of this covenant helps us read our Old Testament and understand Israel's history as a nation theologically. Judaism comes to turn these conditions into a principle (the "Retribution Principle"), which becomes a lens through which they attempt to interpret all of life's events. This principle becomes the cause of much theological wrestle and reflection in Old Testament books such as Job, and even between Jesus and the Pharisees (see Luke 13:1-5).

Open in Prayer and Read Deuteronomy 28:1-6 and verses 15-19

1. In these verses, Moses is addressing Israel as a nation. How would you summarise what he is saying in your own words?
2. Taking what you know from the Old Testament as a whole, how do these verses help you to understand Israel's history as a nation?
3. Read Psalm 37:1-9. How could you explain the psalmist's logic here from the verses in Deuteronomy 28? Why might Deuteronomy 28 not be applicable in this context?
4. How does what you know of Jesus' life challenge this Retribution Principle?

Prayer: Read 1 Peter 3:18. Praise God for His plan to bring you into relationship with Him through Jesus' undeserved death on your behalf.

WHY DO WE SUFFER?

DAY 2: Cycle 1

Open in Prayer

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Jeremiah 41-45; 2 Corinthians 8-13;
Jeremiah 46-50

The argument between Job and his friends can be split into three cycles of one of Job's friends speaking, Job replying etc (Job 4-14, 15-21, 22-27). We will be looking at Job's friends' arguments in the three cycles this week, and then Job's responses next week. Many have struggled to notice much distinction between each of the cycles, but I believe in you!

Pick one of the friend's arguments to read (Eliphaz, Zophar or Bildad) from somewhere in chapters 4-14. Depending on time, you might choose a shorter one, a longer one, or multiple.

1. Have a go at summarising their argument to Job.
2. What truth do you think there is in their argument? Knowing what you do from the heavenly scenes in chapters 1-2, how would you critique their argument?
3. Flick back to page 22 with the table of assertions and take some notes about the logic of their argument.
4. From this argument, what did you learn about:
 - a. God?
 - b. Humanity?

Prayer: Pray from what you have learned or been struck by today.

WEEK 3: JOB 4-37

DAY 3: Cycle 2

Open in Prayer

Pick one of the friend's arguments to read from somewhere in chapters 15-21. Depending on time, you might choose a shorter one, a longer one, or multiple.

1. Have a go at summarising their argument to Job.
 - a. Did you notice anything distinct from cycle 1 yesterday? (It's ok if you didn't!)
2. What truth do you think there is in their argument? Knowing what you do from the heavenly scenes in chapters 1-2, how would you critique their argument?
3. Flick back to page 22 with the table of assertions and take some notes about the logic of their argument.
4. From this argument, what did you learn about:
 - a. God?
 - b. Humanity?

Prayer: Pray from what you have learned or been struck by today.

WHY DO WE SUFFER?

DAY 4: Cycle 3

Open in Prayer

Pick one of the friend's arguments to read from somewhere in chapters 22-27. Depending on time, you might choose a shorter one, a longer one, or multiple.

1. Have a go at summarising their argument to Job.
 - a. Did you notice anything distinct from cycle 1 and 2? (It's ok if you didn't!)
2. What truth do you think there is in their argument? Knowing what you do from the heavenly scenes in chapters 1-2, how would you critique their argument?
3. Flick back to page 22 with the table of assertions and take some notes about the logic of their argument.
4. From this argument, what did you learn about:
 - a. God?
 - b. Humanity?

Prayer: Pray from what you have learned or been struck by today.

WEEK 3: JOB 4-37

DAY 5: Elihu

We've read through the three cycles of arguments presented by Job's friends. Now we look at a fourth person, Elihu. His speech comes after the three cycles have concluded. Job doesn't respond directly to him like he does with his other three friends.

Open in Prayer and Read Job 32:1-5

1. Elihu comes into the conversation quite heated. Why is he angry? Do you think his anger is appropriate?

Read Job 34:1-19 and 37:19-24

2. Does Elihu say anything that hasn't already been said by the others? Back up your answer.
3. Flick back to page 22 with the table of assertions and take some notes about the logic of Elihu's argument.
4. From this argument, what did you learn about:
 - a. God?
 - b. Humanity?

Prayer: Pray from what you have learned or been struck by today.

WHY DO WE SUFFER?

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 4: JOB 19

Last week, we read a bunch of the arguments of Job's three friends and then finally Elihu's argument. This week, we will take a look at a few chapters throughout the dialogue at how Job responds and tries to make sense of his own situation.

DAY 1

Open in Prayer and Read Job 9:1-20

Just as in chapters 1 and 2, Job continues to praise God in the midst of his suffering.

1. Take note of all the things we learn about God from Job's praise in verses 1-13.
2. What does Job say about God's majesty that most captures you? What effect does that, or ought that, have on you and the way you view and live your life?
3. How does Job's argument develop in verses 14-20? (i.e, how do these verses link to the previous verses?)
4. What does Job begin to accuse God of?

Prayer: Spend some time praising God for His majesty, power and justice. You may like to use some of Job's own words from verses 1-13. Pray that God would capture you more and more by His majesty and give you humility to respond to Him rightly.

IS GOD UNJUST?

DAY 2

Open in Prayer and

Read Job 9:21-35

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5;
Galatians 1-6

1. What things do you think Job rightly observes about his situation and the reality of life?
2. What things do you think he has misinterpreted? Why do you think he has?
3. How does Job's accusation of God from yesterday's verses develop in these verses?
4. How do verses 32-35 remind you of Jesus Christ and the Gospel?
5. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. How does the Gospel make our situation different from Job's? How ought those differences affect the way we think and behave when we are going through suffering?

Prayer: Thank God for His goodness in the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

- In providing us with a mediator in Jesus Christ as our perfect high priest.
- In allowing us to come before Him confidently in Christ.
- In giving us solid hope in times of need.

WEEK 4: JOB 19

DAY 3

Open in Prayer and Read Job 14:1-22

As you read the passage take note of the emotional movements throughout.

1. How would you summarise Job's emotional state through this chapter?
2. What do you think Job is saying when he compares himself to a tree?*
3. There is a glimmer of hope in Job's words — what is it? How certain do you think he is of this hope?
4. What are the ways in which our hope as Christians today is different and better than Job's hope?

Prayer: Praise God for the sure hope we have in Jesus Christ.

*Verse 12 "till the heavens are no more" in this context carries the sense of "this will never happen." Similar to how we might say "when hell freezes over" or "when pigs fly."

IS GOD UNJUST?

DAY 4

Open in Prayer and Read Job 19:1-29

1. As you read Job 19:1-20, take note of what different kinds of suffering Job speaks about.
2. What negative lesson can we learn from Job's friends?
3. What is unique to Job's situation which makes their contribution so frustrating to us as readers?
4. What is Job's hope in these verses and how is it different to what we read in chapter 14 (yesterday)?
5. It is difficult to fully reconcile Job's hope here with other parts of his speeches; he is perhaps confused, uncertain and wishful. How can you see his words of hope foreshadow the sure hope we have as Christians in the Gospel?

Prayer: Thank God for providing Jesus as our redeemer and mediator who pleads for us before God. Pray that God would help you to always trust in Him and His righteousness, not in your own.

WEEK 4: JOB 19

DAY 5

Open in Prayer and Read Job 27:1-8

1. These verses are the beginning of Job's concluding words in the book. What are the things Job has become convinced of?
2. Flick back to page 22 with the table of assertions and take some notes about the logic of Job's argument.

In Job 31, Job is confident of his innocence and uses many examples of possible sin to call God to judge him fairly.

Read as much of Job 31 as you are able to, leaving about 5 minutes to reflect and pray afterwards.

As you read, think, "how would I feel saying these words to God?"

Prayer: Reflect on some areas of your life where you feel convicted of your sin. 1 John 1:8-9 says, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." Pray to God and repent of your sin; ask God for forgiveness.

IS GOD UNJUST?

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 5: JOB 38-42

DAY 1

Open in Prayer and Read Job 38:1-3

1. Can you recall times in your life when you've felt like God isn't nearby? Why did you feel this way?
2. What do you think is the significance of the author writing, "the LORD spoke to Job **out of the storm**"?
3. Inform your answer above by chasing up these references one at a time:
 - a. Exodus 19:16-20
 - b. Job 1:19
 - c. Job 36:23-37:5
4. Job has been eager to hear from God for quite some time (flick through the pages of Job to get a sense of the length of dialogue that has passed!)
 - a. Why do you think God waited until now to speak?
 - b. What might Job have found surprising about God's first words to him?

Prayer: Pray that God would use what you've looked at today to help you next time you feel like He is distant.

OUT OF THE STORM

DAY 2

**Open in Prayer and
Read Job 38:1-21**

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6; Ezekiel 6-10

1. What do you think is the tone of God's words to Job here?
2. What does God accuse Job of? How does God argue his point with Job?
3. What effect do these words have on you as you read them?
4. How would you feel if you were in Job's position?

Prayer: Praise God for His absolute sovereignty over all creation. Pray that you would be captured by God's greatness and be humbled before Him.

WEEK 5: JOB 38-42

DAY 3

Open in Prayer and Read Job 38:25-41

1. What are some common ideas people have about God and his involvement in this world?
2. How do the details in these verses challenge some of the ideas you mentioned above?
3. How does God continue arguing His point with Job in these verses? (i.e. how does His argument develop?)

There is a lot in these verses about God's providence over our world; nothing happens without Him causing it — every detail.

4. How does Hebrews 1:3 expand your view of Jesus?

Prayer: Praise Jesus for His sustaining power and intimate knowledge of all things in His creation. Pray that you would have an expanded view of Jesus and follow Him all your days.

OUT OF THE STORM

DAY 4

Open in Prayer and Read Job 41:1-34

As you read the passage, paint a mental picture of Leviathan in your mind from the details given.

1. How are you left feeling after reading this chapter?
2. What point do you think God is making in these verses?
3. How do these verses humble you?
4. How do these verses comfort you in your faith?

Prayer: Pray out of what you have reflected on today.

WEEK 5: JOB 38-42

DAY 5

Open in Prayer and Read Job 40:6-14

1. Think back over last week's readings where Job was arguing with his friends and accusing God...
 - a. What kinds of questions did Job have for God?
 - b. What kinds of questions has the book of Job raised for you?
2. Think back over this week and all of the words that God has spoken to Job from out of the storm.
 - a. Spend some time seeing if you can capture and summarise God's argument in your own words.
 - b. Does God answer Job's questions? Why/ why not?
 - c. Does God answer all of your questions from Job's experience?
3. God's response to Job is the climax of the book. How are you left feeling after it? What do you think God is teaching you?

Prayer: Pray out of what you have reflected on today.

OUT OF THE STORM

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 6: JOB 42

DAY 1

Open in Prayer and

Read Job 9:34-35; 10:2; 13:3, 15, 18, 22; 23:3-6; 31:37

1. What is Job's tone through these verses?
2. How did Job expect his confrontation with God to go?

Read Job 40:1-5 and 42:1-6

3. Compare the Job of these verses to the verses you read before. What has changed for Job?
4. Can you think of people in your life who have the same view of Judgement Day as Job in the earlier parts of this book?

Prayer: Consider how you might reach out to those in your life who have a false confidence with God and will be humbled in judgement. Pray that God would use you to bring about their humility to respond to God rightly and be saved before that day comes.

GOD'S KINDNESS

DAY 2

Open in Prayer and

Read Job 42:7-9

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4;
Ezekiel 16-20

Flick back through the book of Job again and take in the length of the dialogue that has taken place.

1. What is surprising about God's response to Job's three friends?
2. The author has left us to fill out God's response for ourselves... What are the ways that you think Eliphaz, Zophar and Bildad have spoken falsely about God? (You might find it helpful to look back at page 22 with your summaries of their arguments.)
3. Think back to Week 3, Day 1 when we looked at the "Retribution Principle" (page 24). What does God's response to Eliphaz and the other two friends tell us about their view of God's world through this lens?

Prayer: Thank God for the wisdom and insight He gives us in the book of Job. Pray that He would help you be wise and speak rightly of God as we navigate this complex world.

WEEK 6: JOB 42

DAY 3

Open in Prayer and Read Job 42:7-9

1. What might someone find strange about what God does in these verses?
2. What do we learn about God's sovereignty and prayer from these verses?
3. How do these verses and Job 1:4-5 remind you of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
4. As you read Hebrews 7:23-27, what are you thankful to God for in the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Prayer: Give thanks to God for Jesus' sacrifice for your sins. Give thanks to Jesus for His intercession for you now and into eternity.

GOD'S KINDNESS

DAY 4

Open in Prayer and Read Job 42:7-17

1. Considering what we looked at last week in God's extended response to Job. What is surprising about verses 7-8?
2. Why do you think God commends Job here? Do you agree with His commendation?
3. What can we learn from God's commendation of Job for our own lives? (See James 5:11)

Prayer: Thank God for the raw example of Job's perseverance through suffering. Pray that you might be able to wrestle earnestly with God in times of suffering without speaking falsely of God.

WEEK 6: JOB 42

DAY 5

Open in Prayer and Read Job 42:10-17

1. Consider where the book of Job began (Job 1:2-3). Why do you think God restored Job to such prosperity?
2. Think again back to Week 3, Day 1 (page 24). Is Job's abundant blessing here an outworking of the Retribution Principle? Why/ why not?
3. How might your answer to Question 2 inform your answer to Question 1?
4. God never promises that our sufferings will end just like Job's suffering. In fact, Jesus promises quite the opposite for following Him (e.g. John 15:20). What hope of restoration does the Gospel promise us in our suffering? (See Revelation 21:1-4 and Romans 8:18)

Prayer: Praise God for the hope of restoration and eternal life without sin and suffering that He gives us in the Gospel! Ask that God would sustain you by helping you fix your eyes on Jesus and the new creation.

GOD'S KINDNESS

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 7: JOB 28

DAY 1

Open in Prayer and Read Job: 28:1-13*

As you read Job 28:1-11, paint a mental picture from the imagery that is being used.

1. What do these verses suggest about the character of precious and valuable things?
2. This passage was written more than 2,500 years ago. What point is the author making and how might the author's point be impacted if he were writing this today?
3. What do you think the author is saying when he compares humans to the animal kingdom (verses 7-8)?
4. What do verses 12-13 suggest about the character of wisdom?

Prayer: Pray that you would see wisdom as precious and valuable.

* This chapter is most likely an interlude in the book of Job, inserted here by the author in between Job's final speeches before God addresses him. It speaks about wisdom, and in many ways it preempts the book's climax and message found in God's address to Job.

WISDOM

DAY 2

Open in Prayer and Read Job 28:12-19

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4;
Ezekiel 26-30

1. What do these verses suggest about the value and character of wisdom?
2. What is the author saying about humanity in these verses?
3. How do these verses relate to the verses we read yesterday?
(Job 28:1-11)
4. How have you been affected by reading these verses?

Prayer: Pray that we would value wisdom over and above other things that we might find precious in this world.

WEEK 7: JOB 28

DAY 3

Open in Prayer and Read Job 28:1-28

1. "Where can wisdom be found?" (verse 12) has been the central question to this chapter. Look back over the chapter and make a list of all the people, places and things that are unable to locate wisdom.
2. In verse 23, the author finally tells us that only God knows where wisdom is. What reasons does the author give for only God knowing where it is?
3. Considering what we have looked at the previous two days, what might be significant about what God does in verses 27-28? What is the author saying about God?
4. "I can't follow Jesus because of what He teaches on _____. " How could what we've looked at today help you to obey **all** of Jesus' commands?

Prayer: Pray that God would give you wisdom (see James 1:5). Pray that you wouldn't rely on your own understanding, but would be humbled to always trust God in His wisdom.

WISDOM

DAY 4

Open in Prayer and Read Job 28:28

1. Verse 28 is a common refrain in the Old Testament wisdom literature (e.g. Proverbs 9:10, Psalm 111:10). Why do you think God can summarise wisdom like this?
2. What do you think it means to fear the Lord? (See Job 1:1, 5, 8, 22; and Job 2:3, 10)
3. Can you think of areas of your life where you fail to shun evil and perhaps delight in it instead?
4. How might the rest of chapter 28 help you or motivate you to fear God and shun evil?

Prayer: Pray that you would be wise, that you would fear the Lord and shun evil. Pray to God and repent of all the areas of your life where you fail to recognise God as you ought, and the evil that you fail to shun. Ask forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

WEEK 7: JOB 28

DAY 5

Open in Prayer and Read Job 28:12, 23; Job 38:1-7 and Job 42:1-7

1. How does Job 28 remind you of other parts of the book of Job?
2. For the third time now, flick back through the pages of Job 4-27 and notice the length and nature of the dialogue. Recalling what you can from the days we spent in chapters 4-27, how might chapter 28 help give an explanation of the length of the dialogue and its result?
3. How could you use chapter 28 to respond to:
 - a. Job's three friends?
 - b. Job himself?
4. When God finally speaks in Job 38, there are many questions that Job has about his suffering (and we, as readers, have about suffering more generally) that are left unanswered. How does Job 28 help us understand why God responds to Job in this way?
5. How does this chapter foreshadow God's commendation of Job? (See 1:1)

Prayer: Spend a moment reflecting on all that you have learned from the book of Job over the past seven weeks. Give thanks to God for the book of Job and the insights He has given you.

WISDOM

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

INTRODUCTION: JONAH

Message and Purpose

The Book of Jonah! Most famous for its story of a fish swallowing a man, the Book of Jonah is one of the most unique books of the Bible — and often one of the most misunderstood.

Usually, when we think of the prophets, we think they are the good guys! They are the godly and wise guys — they have to be because God has chosen them to be His messengers, right?! Well, not so in this case. In the person of Jonah we see some major character flaws — he's disobedient, racist and stubborn. In contrast to Jonah's significant character flaws, God's incredible goodness is highlighted all the more for us. In Jonah, we are encouraged to reflect on our own flaws — particularly when it comes to picking and choosing who we want to share the gospel with. And in God's compassion to the Ninevites, we're reminded that God is mighty to save — even those who seem impossibly far from Him — and He loves to do it! In this we get to see the incredible reality that God first and foremost desires to show mercy, not judgement. This book is a real-life example that God's preferred way of relating to us is compassionately (Isaiah 28:21).

Context

Jonah is a Minor Prophet in the Old Testament, and history tells us that Jonah lived in the 8th century BC (3,000 years ago) and was a prophet from Gath Hepher, Galilee (2 Kings 14:25). Jonah is instructed by God to travel to Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria, to preach against it (1:1). And to our surprise, Jonah refuses! He doesn't want God to give any opportunity to the Ninevites to repent (4:2). What?! Why?!

This makes context crucially important for understanding the Book of Jonah. How could Jonah possibly not want God to show compassion to the Ninevites? What's going on?

To understand, we need to know that Israel had endured a tense history with Assyria. Prior to Jonah's lifetime, Assyria had been the superpower of the day and had regularly warred with and invaded Israel. Plus, Assyria was famous for dealing particularly violently and gruesomely with their enemies. To say that Israel didn't like Assyria is a huge understatement.

So, as you read the Book of Jonah, enjoy seeing God doing what He knows how to do best — showing mercy to those who don't deserve it. Enjoy also the array of engaging literary techniques like satire, tragic irony and humour. How good that the Bible shows us God-truths so richly and winsomely! Soak up the incredible reality that God loves to show compassion, and reflect on the fact that He loves to show this compassion to even the most unlikely of sinners.

WEEK 8: JONAH 1 AND 2

DAY 1: Jonah Son of Amittai

Open in Prayer and Read Jonah 1:1-2 and 2 Kings 14:23-25

1. What facts do we learn about Jonah from these two passages?
2. Knowing that Jonah served to expand the borders of such an evil king, how might that shape our expectations of Jonah in this book?
3. What reason does God give to Jonah to preach? What does this teach us about God?

Prayer: Pray that the next three weeks spent in Jonah would be a great time of learning about God's character. Ask God that He would shape and mould you over this time.

JONAH AT SEA

DAY 2: The Disobedient Prophet

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5;
Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3

Open in Prayer and Read Jonah 1

1. How does Jonah respond to the task God gives him? What's surprising/not surprising about this?
2. In relation to Nineveh, Tarshish was literally on the other side of the known world in Jonah's time. It's a bit like jumping on a 19-hour flight from Sydney to London. What might Jonah's actions show he assumes about God?
3. How do you see God's sovereignty in this chapter?
4. How do you see God's commitment to His plans in this chapter?

Prayer: Thank God for His complete control over all things in all places. Thank God that He is committed to the plans that He puts in place.

WEEK 8: JONAH 1 AND 2

DAY 3: God's Heart for the Nations

Open in Prayer and Read Jonah 1

1. Two literary techniques used in the book of Jonah are satire and irony. How do you see these play out when comparing the sailors and Jonah?
2. How do you see God's heart for the nations in this chapter?
3. That Jonah gets swallowed by a fish is often one of the biggest stumbling blocks for people taking the Bible seriously. Check out Luke 11:29-30. How do Jesus' words help us think about whether these events actually happened or not?

Prayer: Thank God that He loves to show mercy to the nations! Thank Him as well that His Word is Spirit-inspired and so we can trust it. Thank God for the richness of His Word — that He even uses different literary techniques to help us better see the things He wants us to see. Pray for increasing knowledge of and love for His Word.

JONAH AT SEA

DAY 4: The Lord is worth Fearing

Open in Prayer and Read Jonah 1

1. Some see Jonah's willingness to be thrown overboard as heroic; others see it as cowardly. What do you think? How might what we've seen of Jonah so far influence your answer?
2. Are there things that God calls Christians to do that you've not wanted to do?
3. Why do you think God didn't just let Jonah die and raise up a new and willing prophet to get the job done? What might God be trying to show about Himself in doing this?
4. How does this chapter grow your reverence for God? And how might that help you with the things you find hard to do in Christian life?

Prayer: Spend some time now writing a prayer repenting of times when you've disobeyed God and asking for help to live a life of reverent obedience. Include in the prayer thankfulness that God doesn't give up on stubborn sinners!

WEEK 8: JONAH 1 AND 2

DAY 5 : The Determined Love of God

Open in Prayer and Read Jonah 2 and Matthew 12:40

1. Which parts of Jonah's prayer do you particularly love? Why?
2. What does Jonah's prayer show he has learned about God in being saved from death?
3. What does Jonah resolve to do in this prayer?
4. In what ways does this prayer make you think of Jesus?

Prayer: Thank God that He is determined to bring His plans to fruition. Thank God that He loves to show mercy to the disobedient!

JONAH AT SEA

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 9: JONAH 3

DAY 1: The Bloodthirsty Ninevites

Open in Prayer and Read Jonah 3:1-4 and Nahum 3:1-4

1. From the Nahum reading, what do you learn about the city Jonah is preaching to?
2. Check out the description below of the Ninevites/Assyrians (warning: super graphic!).

"One famous Assyrian leader of the century prior was Ashurnasirpal II (circa 883–859 b.c.e.). This king was known for hanging his enemies on posts, flaying them, and lining city walls with their skins. He also burned his enemies, or beheaded them if they were fortunate — those still alive would have noses, ears, eyes, arms and other extremities removed.

His son Shalmaneser III (858–824 b.c.e.) continued in his footsteps. His famous bronze Balawat gates depict Assyrian soldiers hacking apart the captured enemy alive, dismembering hands and feet. Heads were hung from walls during his reign, and impaled captives were lined up on display. "Pillars" of skewered human heads stood like totem poles."^{*}

From the Nahum reading and the above description, what reasons might Jonah have had for not wanting to go to Nineveh?

3. What does Jonah preach against the Ninevites?
4. The word "overthrown" at the end of verse 4 has a double meaning. It could also read "Forty more days and Nineveh will be turned around". What does this hint at what might happen next?

^{*} <https://watchjerusalem.co.il/1143-jonahs-remarkably-accurate-account-of-assyria>

Prayer: Thank God for the fact that He sees everything, that He hates sin and that in Jesus He has done something about it.

JONAH AT NINEVEH

DAY 2: The Repentant Ninevites

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6;
2 Timothy 1-4

Open in Prayer and Read Jonah 3:5-10

1. Why might some consider the Ninevites' response to Jonah's words to be shocking?
2. There's a stark contrast between God's initial command to Jonah ("preach against it" — 1:2) and the repentance that the Ninevites display. What does this reveal about God's ultimate desire for people?
3. Knowing what you know about the Ninevites, why might some find it a hard pill to swallow that God would relent from punishing them?
4. On the flipside, why is it incredible that God would relent from punishing people like the Ninevites?
5. Why is this personally good news for you and the people you know?

Prayer: Thank the Lord that His mercy is extended even to the most depraved among humanity. Ask God that this would give you confidence in your salvation — not because you're not as bad as the Ninevites but because God's capacity for forgiveness is so great.

WEEK 9: JONAH 3

DAY 3: Right Repentance

Open in Prayer and Read Jonah 3

1. This is now the second time this book records pagans repenting (the first instance was the sailors in chapter 1). How does this repentance call out Jonah?
2. Reflect for a few minutes on your life. Are there moments when you've responded like Jonah initially did to God's Word? And are there instances where (by God's grace) you've responded like the Ninevites in repentance to your sin?
3. Putting on "sackcloth" was a cultural symbol representing grief. What might it look like for someone today to reflect appropriate grief over their sin?
4. Consider now an instruction from God's Word that you find hard to obey/believe. What would it practically look like for you to work on obeying/believing God's Word?

Prayer: Ask God to help you be someone who genuinely loves the Lord and seeks to obey Him in everything. Thank God for the times He has enabled you to overcome sin. Thank God that He is first and foremost a God of mercy, and that that would give you great confidence and peace.

JONAH AT NINEVEH

DAY 4: Short-Lived Repentance

Open in Prayer and Read Jonah 3:5-10

1. There's been lots of discussion by Bible commentators around whether the Ninevites' repentance is genuine. What do you think? What evidence from the passage could you use to support your answer?
2. Read Nahum 3:18-19. God ultimately judges and destroys the nation of Assyria for their sin through the Babylonians in 612 BC. What does this teach us about Assyria's repentance as a whole?
3. How could this be a helpful warning for us today?
4. Is there unrepentant sin in your life?

Prayer: Spend some time praying, repenting of that sin in your life. Thank the Lord that He loves to show mercy — even to people as depraved as the Assyrians! Thank God for the truths in 1 John 1:8-9 that give us confidence in God's forgiveness of our sin.

WEEK 9: JONAH 3

DAY 5: Known Repentance

Open in Prayer and Read Jonah 3:10

1. Sometimes repenting from sin can feel like it goes unnoticed and that it's just a battle we face in and by ourselves. How might this verse help you when you're feeling this way?

2. "When God saw what they did..." Our God is a God who is present in our world and active in the lives of all people.
 - a. How do you find this encouraging for your own life?

 - b. How do you find this challenging for your own life?

Prayer: Ask God that you would always remember that you are in a personal relationship with the God of the universe. Pray that you'd remember that He sees your every move and is delighted when you turn from your sin. Pray you'd remember that your God is a Father who deeply loves His children.

JONAH AT NINEVEH

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 10: JONAH 4

DAY 1: Jonah Despises the Ninevites

Open in Prayer and Read Jonah 3:10-4:4

1. Reflect back on the reasons that you thought Jonah may have had for not wanting to go to Nineveh. What do we finally learn about why Jonah didn't want to obey God and go to Nineveh?
2. What does Jonah accuse God of? What does this say about Jonah's heart?
3. What does God's question in verse 4 imply about the validity of Jonah's response?
4. Do you find Jonah's reaction shocking? Or do you relate to Jonah? What might your response say about your own heart?

Prayer: Ask God to make you be someone whose natural tendency is to be humble when it comes to wrestling with God, His Word and what He chooses to do. Pray that you'd never think your ways are higher than God's.

JONAH'S UNJUST ANGER

DAY 2: Jonah's Tantrum

Open in Prayer and

Read Jonah 4:1-9

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3, Philemon

1. What do you think Jonah is hoping will happen? What does that reveal about his heart?
2. In verse 4, God asks Jonah a question. How do the following verses demonstrate Jonah's response?
3. What's your guess at what God might be trying to teach Jonah with this leafy plant episode? (We'll look at this more tomorrow — don't stress!)
4. Can you think of any instances in your own life where you've heard God's word — whether through another person or straight from the Bible — and you've ignored it and continued in your ways?
5. God could have then and there rightly destroyed Jonah for his hardness of heart, but He doesn't. What does this show you about God?

Prayer: Pray for a heart that loves mercy and not judgement. Pray that you would be soft to God's voice in His Word and that you would always be ready to be corrected by it — not hardened, but instead ready to listen.

WEEK 10: JONAH 4

DAY 3: God Has Made all Things

Open in Prayer and Read Jonah 4:5-11

1. In verse 10, God implicitly makes a claim about where the plant came from. What does He claim?
2. What does this also imply about the city of Nineveh and its inhabitants?
3. How might the fact that God gives and takes away life correct Jonah's anger?
4. Have you ever been angry or upset with God for taking something away that He has made? How does this passage challenge your thinking?
5. How is this passage a comfort for those who are dealing with anger or sadness over things that have been taken away by God? (Think particularly about to how God deals with Jonah.)

Prayer: Thank God that He makes awesome things! Spend some time thanking God for some of the specific things or people He has made. Pray also for a humble heart in acknowledging that the Lord has the right to take away the things He has made.

JONAH'S UNJUST ANGER

DAY 4: God Loves What He has Made

Open in Prayer and Read Jonah 4:10-11

1. Yesterday, we reflected on God as the Giver of Life, and also on God as the one who also takes life away. How do you see God's love and care for the things He has made in these verses?
2. What do you think God is saying by comparing humankind and the plant?
3. Are you surprised by the end of verse 11 — "and also many animals"? What does this show about God's relationship with his world?
4. How could this passage shape the way you relate to all that God has made?

Prayer: Thank God that He deeply loves the things He has made — particularly humankind. Ask God that His priorities would be yours. Ask God that you would share in His intimate care for the things and people He has made.

WEEK 10: JONAH 4

DAY 5: The God of Incredible Mercy

Open in Prayer and Read Jonah 4:10-11 and Micah 7:18

1. Having spent a couple days now in these verses, have a go at summarising what you think God is trying to teach Jonah in this chapter.
2. We don't know if Jonah accepts what God is teaching him here — we're not told either way. What effect does this have on you?
3. What does God's comment "people who cannot tell their right hand from their left" mean? What do you think He is commenting on spiritually about the Ninevites?
4. How does this further invalidate Jonah's hatred of the Ninevites?
5. Are there times you can think of in your life when you've perhaps secretly not wanted someone to receive salvation? How does seeing God's heart in the Book of Jonah help you in this?
6. How could what you've seen in Jonah shape your view of evangelism and motivation to do it?

Prayer: Thank God that He loves to show mercy!! Thank God that His work of judgement is His alien, foreign task (Isaiah 28:21). Thank God that He prefers to forgive and show compassion. Pray now for people in your life that don't yet trust in Jesus.

JONAH'S UNJUST ANGER

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

