Growing Character Together: Insights for Parents

Week 10 | Respect

God Responds to Job

BIG QUESTION

How can seeing God in everything help you respect Him in every part of your life?

VIRTUE

RESPECT: God’s power for you to  honor Him and others.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Job 38:1-12, 33-41, 40:1-14, 42:1-17

Job was a righteous and wealthy man who is said to have lived about 4,000 years ago, around the time, and in the same region of the world, where Abraham lived. Satan thought that the only reason Job loved and worshipped God because God had given Job such a great life, but God knew better. God allowed Satan to bring enormous suffering into Job’s life through the loss of his livestock (which was equal to money back then) servants, and even his children. Eventually he became sick with sores all over his body and a wife who told him to curse God and die. In spite of all this hardship, Job remained worshipful and devoted to God.

Three of Job’s friends came to try and comfort him, but also told him that surely God was punishing him for sin in his life that Job must be hiding. Job maintained that he had always loved and obeyed God diligently. In Job’s agony, and in defense of his friends’ accusations, he cried out to the Lord asking many questions. In the Bible verses for this lesson, we see God’s response to Job with questions of his own. They are intended to humble Job and remind him that God is all powerful and all-knowing and is to be feared and respected in every situation. We also see that Job spoke rightly about God and his friends didn’t. In God’s compassion and mercy, He restored everything Job had lost times two. He even gave Job ten more children and “blessed his later part of Job’s life more than the former part.” (Job 42:12)

Scripture: <https://live.bible.is/bible/ENGNIV/JOB/38?audio_type=audio>; <https://live.bible.is/bible/ENGNIV/JOB/40?audio_type=audio>; <https://live.bible.is/bible/ENGNIV/JOB/42?audio_type=audio>

Experience It.

Imagine that like Job, your friends come to visit you. How would you want them to treat you in your suffering?

*Hint: To listen to you, to be kind, to be empathetic, to try to understand what you are going through, to try and help you, to remind you about the truth of who God is.*

Internalize It.

Think about something hard you are going through. What could be God’s purposes for you in your situation?

*Hint: To grow your respect for who God is and all that He has done and is doing. To bring you comfort knowing that He knows what is going on in your life, He is in sovereign control of everything that touches your life, and He cares about you!*

Activate It.

How can seeing God in everything help you respect Him in every part of your life?

Hint: Seeing Him in creation reminds us that He is all wise, all powerful and in control and that we aren’t, and so He deserves our respect. Since He knows about and is sovereign over every part of our lives, we can respectfully worship and obey Him in all things.

CHRIST CONNECTION

The Old Testament provides many examples of people and circumstances that point to the Gospel and Jesus Christ. At the end of the book of Job, we see the example of the innocent sufferer who mediates for his friends and then receives double blessings from the Lord.

In Job 42:8, Job’s friends are told by God to go to Job and make a sacrifice, and then Job would pray for them. The prayer would be accepted, and God wouldn’t deal with them according to their folly. This is a foreshadow of Jesus - our perfect mediator! 1 Timothy 2:5 says, “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus who gave himself as a ransom for all.” Because Jesus lived perfectly and died innocently as a ransom for us, He is now seated with God as the mediator, or bridge, to a relationship with God. Hebrews 7:25 says that Jesus always lives to make intercession (prayer) for us. What a wonderful and caring God we have!

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55: 8-9)

PRAYER

Lord, we are reminded that You are the sovereign and wise God of all things and that You see and know all things that touch our lives. Help me to trust You and respect You during all my troubles. In your name, Amen

