

Study Guide

Anchored Faith & True Wisdom in Suffering

Job 27–28

Primary Text

- Job 27–28

Supporting Scriptures

- 1 Corinthians 1:18–31
- Ephesians 2:8–9
- Hebrews 11:1–3
- Romans 5:1–5
- Philippians 4:12–13
- Matthew 5:3–12; 6:33

Opening Reflection

Suffering often presses us to ask *why*, while God invites us to trust *who*. In Job 27–28, Job does not receive explanations—but he does reaffirm his faith. This study explores what anchored faith looks like when wisdom feels out of reach and suffering remains unresolved.

Opening Question:

- When life becomes confusing or painful, what are you most tempted to seek—answers, relief, or reassurance of God’s presence?

Section 1: Job’s Unwavering Faith amid Unanswered Questions

Read: Job 27:1–6

Observation

- Job swears an oath “as God lives,” acknowledging God’s sovereignty.
- He refuses to deny his integrity or accept his friends’ accusations.
- His phrase “far be it from me” expresses moral impossibility—something unthinkable before God.

Key Truth

Faith does not depend on understanding circumstances but on trusting God’s character.

Discussion Questions

1. How does Job distinguish between God’s sovereignty and accusing God of wrongdoing?
2. Why is it significant that Job connects his continued breath with God’s sustaining grace?
3. What does this passage teach us about integrity during suffering?

Cross-References

- Hebrews 11:1–3
- Ephesians 2:8–9

Section 2: The Terrifying End of False Religion

Read: Job 27:7–23

Observation

Job describes the destiny of those who trust in false religion or works-based theology.

The Five Warnings

1. Families destroyed by sword and famine
2. Wealth transferred to the righteous
3. False security exposed (moth’s house / watchman’s booth)

4. Swept away by terror and judgment
5. Final mockery under God's justice

Key Truth

False religion promises security but offers no refuge when God judges.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is works-based or “fairness” theology especially dangerous in suffering?
2. Which images of false security stand out most to you, and why?
3. How can believers guard against weaponizing theology toward others?

Cross-References

- Matthew 5:3–12
- Romans 12:1–2

Section 3: The Futility of Human Wisdom

Read: Job 28:1–22

Observation

- Humanity can mine the earth and control creation.
- Yet wisdom cannot be discovered, purchased, or mastered.

Key Truth

Human achievement cannot attain the wisdom that reconciles us to God.

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Job emphasize human ingenuity before declaring its limits?
2. How does this section challenge modern ideas about progress and intelligence?
3. In what ways do we still try to “mine” wisdom apart from God?

Cross-Reference

- 1 Corinthians 1:20–25

Section 4: True Wisdom Defined

Read: Job 28:23–28

“The fear of the LORD, that is wisdom,
and to turn away from evil is understanding.”

Observation

- God alone knows the way to wisdom.
- Wisdom is relational and moral, not merely intellectual.

Key Truth

Wisdom begins with reverent trust in God and results in repentance and obedience.

Discussion Questions

1. How does biblical wisdom differ from worldly wisdom?
2. Why is “fear of the Lord” foundational rather than optional?
3. How does repentance reflect true understanding?

Section 5: Gospel Fulfillment in Christ

Christological Connection

- Job foreshadows Christ as the righteous sufferer.
- Jesus embodies God’s wisdom and power (1 Corinthians 1:30).
- The cross appears foolish to the world but is salvation to believers.

Reflection Questions

1. How does Jesus fulfill what Job longed for but could not yet see?
2. How does the gospel reshape how we interpret suffering?

3. Why does contentment depend on union with Christ rather than circumstances?

Cross-Reference

- Philippians 4:12–13

Key Takeaways

- God is sovereign over both suffering and success.
- Faith is revealed—not destroyed—by trials.
- Human wisdom cannot produce saving truth.
- False religion collapses under judgment.
- Jesus Christ is our wisdom, righteousness, and refuge.

Personal Application

- Where are you tempted to rely on understanding rather than trust?
- Are there areas where your theology leans toward performance or fairness rather than grace?
- How can you intentionally cultivate the fear of the Lord this week?

Closing Prayer

*Gracious Lord,
Thank You for sustaining our lives and revealing true wisdom in Christ.
Forgive us for leaning on our own understanding.
Refine our faith through suffering, renew our minds by Your Word,
and teach us to walk by faith and not by sight.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*