

## Engaging Gospel Doctrine (Episode 109.2)

### LESSON 32 (STUDY NOTES)

#### “I Know That My Redeemer Liveth”

Hook	The book of Job wrestles with one of the most poignant questions in life: Why do we suffer, and where is God in it all?
Goal	
Overview	
Conclusion	

**Manual Goal:** To help class members develop strength to face adversity by trusting the Lord, building their testimonies of him, and maintaining personal integrity.

**EGD Goal:** Class members should take the opportunity Job offers to wrestle with very difficult topics in a mature, even sophisticated way. They should reflect on how a personal relationship with God has helped them in trials, and most importantly, internalize the importance of being with those who mourn rather than trying to explain (away) tragedy.

#### I. Sunday School

- a. Initial reflections/comments on Job (Bring up in class/conversation ““Has anyone noticed that the beginning and end on one hand and the middle on the other are strikingly different?” Specifically, in the narrative he doesn’t question or complain, and in the middle dialogues he does little else!)
- b. Review the reading
- c. Dealing with suffering, loss, and death
- d. Meaning and blame (Job’s friends)
- e. Theodicy within a Mormon context (Give a caveat that this theodicy works well as far as such things go, but in moments of grief they will likely do nothing, and aren’t even the right response)
- f. How we help and support each other (they sat with him)
- g. Calling God to court/personal relationship with God
- h. Conclusion I (Stress the paradox that often the best answer is no answer, and the discovery of meaning MUST be personal)

<http://radiowest.kuer.org/post/why-book-job>

Quotes from Rabbi Harold Kushner:

Two words for “why” in Hebrew:

Mahdua: Why did it happen?

Lemah: To what purpose did this happen?

Theology is like reading the menu while religion is like enjoying the meal. [Theology represents our musings about God, but religion and spirituality represent our experiences with God]

It is blasphemy to seek to explain why tragedy happens; what we must do is \*respond\*. God gives us gifts to respond

We find qualities we didn't know we possessed

The key message of Job is that God is there and cares, even if we still don't know why

Key theme: "people who behave as badly as Job's friends need to apologize both to Job and to the Lord and to be retrained by an expert in the field, Job himself" (Jewish Study Bible, 1505)

Look at Job's responses and discuss:

"the speeches of the Lord raise the argument to a new level entirely, and then close off all further conversation without directly answering any of the deep and painful questions that have been raised along the way" (Job, Jewish Study Bible)

#### Resources

<http://radiowest.kuer.org/post/why-book-job>

<http://radiowest.kuer.org/topic/why-god-and-tragedy> (addressing the topic of suffering from multiple perspectives)

On Being, Approaching Prayer <http://www.onbeing.org/program/approaching-prayer/67>

<https://www.lds.org/ensign/1992/06/to-mourn-with-those-that-mourn?lang=eng> (Great dos and don'ts about mourning with those that mourn)

Visiting Teaching Message: <https://www.lds.org/ensign/1987/09/willing-to-mourn-with-those-who-mourn?lang=eng>