



## BIBLE READING GUIDE

### WEEK 5 PREVIEW

*The poetic dialogs between Job and his “comforters” give us insight into the challenge of trying to understand suffering from a ground-level perspective. More than anywhere else in the Bible, these chapters show us that humans who live uprightly may experience suffering that they will never understand in this life. In the end, Job doesn’t get the answers he was seeking after. Instead, God points him to the glories and mysteries of His creation and vindicates his righteousness.*

*We will also begin reading this week about Israel’s bondage and suffering in Egypt and about Moses, the deliverer God raises up to bring them out. We will notice ways that Moses is both like and unlike Jesus.*

### READING HELPS

- DAY 1 Job 25–28**
- One primary feature of Hebrew poetry is repetition, especially parallelism, two lines communicating the same or a contrasting thought. Another device is word pictures. Try to identify both in today’s reading.
- DAY 2 Job 29–32**
- In chapter 29, Job reminisces about the “good ole days” when things were going well.
  - How do you respond when you feel falsely accused of something?
- DAY 3 Job 33–36**
- Elihu personifies the overconfident youth. Though, his words are a mixture of truth and falsity. Can you identify one of each?
- DAY 4 Job 37:1–40:5; Psalm 19**
- In Job 38, God hushes all pretense of human wisdom.
  - Spend some time to meditate on Psalm 19. How does God declare his glory through creation?
- DAY 5 Job 40:6–40:5; Psalm 29**
- How does the conclusion to the book of Job affect your view of human suffering?
  - Worship the Lord today using the language of Psalm 29.
- DAY 6 Exodus 1–4**
- Read John 8:58 and spend some time considering how Jesus’ words relate to Exodus 3:14.
  - The strange story in Exodus 4:24-26 follows on the heels of God’s adoption of Israel as His son. Where else have we seen the practice of circumcision discussed? Why was it important for Moses to perform the procedure on his son through his wife Zipporah?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can it be comforting to rest in the truth that we don’t always understand God’s ways?
2. How can God’s trustworthiness give us hope in the midst of difficult circumstances?
3. Do you believe God has plans to use you for His purposes? If so, how? What plans for your life has he already revealed in His word?

### PRAYER

*Lord, help me to acknowledge your glorious majesty today. May I live in holy awe of Your purposes that can never be thwarted. Help to trust you, even when I can’t understand what’s happening around me. Overwhelm me with a sense that the great “I AM” is with me and for me at all times. Amen.*