

The Big Question

Where's God when disaster strikes?

When disaster strikes, it leaves more than physical devastation in its wake. Cities may be ravaged, homes and businesses ruined, treasured possessions lost forever; but many people find in the aftermath that the greatest devastation is within their hearts. Losing possessions—or even loved ones—causes us to experience a vast range of emotions: confusion, fear, anger, desperation, and grief.

When such tragedies hit, do you ever wonder, “Where was God?” Do things like this “just happen”? Do they leave you troubled by even more questions you cannot answer? If so, rest assured: You are not alone in asking questions. In fact, you are not alone at all.

It's a good thing that we are not left to figure out all the answers on our own. We have a reliable source to answer our burning questions. Here's what the Bible has to say about it:



- God is in control of all things—even disasters (Psalm 66:7; 103:19).
- God is close by—even when we feel abandoned or alone (Psalm 34:18; Jeremiah 23:23).
- Sometimes, to accomplish His wise purposes, God allows awful things to happen to good people (Psalm 34:19).
- God is able to bring good out of evil (Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28), and He will do so in His time.
- God will always act in a trustworthy manner and will never abandon those who believe in Him (Psalm 9:10; Hebrews 13:5).

Amazing Facts

Bad Disease, Great Grace

The disease Satan brought on Job's entire body caused Job constant affliction. Job suffered from painful itching (Job 2:8), disfigurement (2:12), sleeplessness (7:4), oozing sores infected with worms (7:5), bad breath (19:17), extreme weight loss (19:20), fever (21:6), excruciating pain (30:17), diarrhea (30:27), and shriveling skin (30:30).

Why such intense symptoms? Satan knew Job's faith was strong. He knew He had to make Job's life as miserable as possible to break Job's trust in God. Ultimately, Satan lost the battle with God because God's grace was sufficient for Job. Though Job still had lessons to learn as his disease persisted, he never cursed God.



Ponder Points

1. What is your reaction to Job's symptoms?
2. How do you think you would respond to having all his symptoms?
3. What does Job's experience reveal about the power of God's grace?
See 2 Corinthians 12:7–10.

All of a Sudden!

Start at the "S" and move up and down the string of letters in the tornado according to the arrows and numbers under the spaces. The arrows tell you which direction to move and the numbers indicate how many times to move. Record the letter for each space to finish an important message about troubling circumstances.

Unexpected hard circumstances do not S God.

4 3 4 4 6 7 6

Trust God when trials come. He is your and

4 4 2 3 5 9 8 5 7 4 6 7

N
S
R
H
G
U
P
E
I
L
T

What troubles do
James 1:5

you need to pray about today?

God Stays the Same

Unscramble the words to discover what did not change about God when Job suffered. Then use the letters in the colored boxes to complete the words below.

God's . . .

M	I	D	W	S	O
W		S			

Y	G	R	L	O
	L		R	

C	R	E	G	A
			C	E

H	T	T	U	R
	R			H

R	A	C	E



God is even
when my circumstances
are .

Measuring Growth



The Junior lesson for this week taught that God is good all the time. Job's response to the overwhelming tragedies he experienced showed that God's goodness is not defined by our circumstances. We can always trust God is good. Spend time with your child talking about the spiritual growth measurables.

Measurables

Look for the following indicators that your child believes God is good all the time.

1. My child responds to trying circumstances by praying about them.
2. My child understands that whining about circumstances offends God.
3. My child praises God in the midst of trying circumstances.



STRONG
kids