

# THE STORY Q's

2017: YEAR OF BIBLICAL LITERACY

3-1

## JOB & THE UNSEEN WORLD

W I S D O M L I T E R A T U R E

FEATURING  
BIBLE  
PROJECT



# WISDOM LITERATURE

The book of Job delves into issues near to the heart of every human who experiences suffering, and the prologue provides a fascinating peek into the back story of why God allowed Satan to afflict Job with such pain and turmoil. Job's plight of undeserved suffering compels us to ask the age-old question, "Why do bad things happen to good people?"

Or, to put it another way, "How do you reconcile a God of love and power who created the universe for His good pleasure with what we see going on around us in our world?"

**Q1** How many times have you heard that question asked and in what context? What would your response sound like?

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## VISIBLE & INVISIBLE WORLDS

### HEBREWS 11:3 \*NIV

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

### COLOSSIANS 1:16 \*ESV

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him.

As followers of Jesus we believe that we are living in two worlds simultaneously: the invisible and the visible.

**Q2** What are the implications of these two verses in relation to the idea that we are living in two worlds?

**Q3** What are some of the challenges we face in living in the tension of these two worlds in our everyday lives?

# SUFFERING

*"True seeking actually begins with disbelief...That is, we stop believing in what we have believed before because of new needs that we have encountered that our previous beliefs could not answer..."*

OZ GUINNESS / AUTHOR

**Q4** **Have you ever found this quote to be true in your life?** Describe the circumstances. Is this a one-time thing or a lifestyle? Why would a season of trial or suffering bring this principle into play?

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# LAMENT

Two-thirds of the Psalms carry the theme of lament, such as this one:

**PSALM 102: 1-5** A PRAYER OF AN AFFLICTED PERSON WHO HAS GROWN WEAK AND POURS OUT A LAMENT BEFORE THE LORD  
Hear my prayer, Lord; let my cry for help come to you. Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. Turn your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly. For my days vanish like smoke; my bones burn like glowing embers. My heart is blighted and withered like grass; I forget to eat my food. In my distress I groan aloud and am reduced to skin and bones.

Find your favorite Psalm of lament and share it with the group.

**Q5** **What would you say is the difference between a lament and a complaint?** Which one did Job embrace? Which one are you more prone to move towards and why?

**Q6** **If you were writing your own Psalm in the season of life you find yourself in, what would it sound like?** For extra credit, try jotting down a few verses in a journal alone with God and see what comes out of your heart.