**Struggling with Suffering**

**A Study on Job: Part 1**

**Introduction**

Discuss with the people sitting around you some of the ways you’ve suffered in your life, or some of the ways you’ve seen others suffer. As Christians, what are some questions that come to mind when we experience or witness intense suffering?

**Read Job 1:1-12**

1. Describe Job.
2. There are a number of interesting details revealed in this conversation between God and Satan. Name one.
3. “I thought God loves his people and protects them! Why did he give Satan control over everything Job had?” Respond.

**Read Job 1:13-22**

1. Discuss the following questions with the people around you.
   1. Put yourself in Job’s shoes. In a matter of minutes, your bank accounts were hacked and drained, your cars were stolen, your house and possessions went up in flames, and your children all died suddenly in a car accident. How do you react?
   2. What are some amazing things Job says or does in verses 20-22? Can we learn anything here about enduring suffering as Christians?

**Read Job 2:1-10**

1. After Job passed the first test with flying colors, God granted him quick relief from his suffering and restored his fortunes, right? Not exactly. God actually allowed Satan to make Job’s suffering even worse. Can you think of a time in your life where God seemed to do the same thing to you? What are some possible reasons God allows our suffering to continue, or even intensify when he could easily make it go away?

**Conclusion**

1. Job’s faith in God held up remarkably well during his initial sufferings. What are some ways we can prepare ourselves for the sufferings which we will undoubtedly face in this sinful world?

**Optional Homework**

Next week we’ll be skimming through the long dialogue Job has with three of his friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar. The discussion runs from chapter 3 until chapter 31, so we obviously won’t have time to read all of it. Try to read or skim through those chapters this week on your own to get a feel for the dialogue. What are the main points each speaker is trying to make?