# CONNECTGROUPGUIDE



THE FAITHFUL SUFFERER





JOB 1:1-22

JOB 2:11-3:11 7:11-21

JOB 19:1-27

JOB 38:1-11 42:1-17

BLESSED BE YOUR NAME

Man of Sorrows

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES

BEHOLD OUR GOD

### **INTRO TO JOB**

The book of Job explores themes of suffering and righteousness. The central question is about the motivation around Job remaining faithful to Yahweh, despite all his trials and struggles.

When all of Job's blessings are taken away, he questions God about why. Job wrestles with the conflict of suffering while believing in a God of justice.

Does Job trust in God because he has received many blessings, or does he trust in God because he values God for who He is?

Job's friends have long discussions about the paradox of his seemingly unjust suffering.

Job shows that even in grief we can find hope through a deepened relationship with God. And, in fact, it is only through the suffering that this can happen. Today, we too, face the question - Will we love God, no matter what?

## Some guidelines for Connect Group ...

- Come to the study prepared; preparation will greatly enrich your time together; it is recommended to take notes during the Sunday sermon, and to write down your thoughts as you prepare
- As part of your preparation, why not listen to the sermon again during the week (most sermons are recorded and available on <u>Apple Podcasts</u>, and also on the website)
- · As you prepare, pray that God will speak to you through his word
- Be willing to participate in your group. Your sharing will greatly encourage all the other members as you grow together
- Stick to the topic this allows everyone to participate on level ground and to go deeper into the Bible
- Be sensitive to others and listen attentively; affirm others, especially those who may feel timid or don't often share
- Your leader won't be lecturing, but helping members to think through the questions. Many questions don't have a 'right' answer, especially those that apply the Bible to our lives
- · Be careful not to dominate, as it could inhibit others from sharing
- Expect God to teach you through the passage and through other members,
   and always pray that it will be a profitable time together



## BLESSED BE YOUR NAME

# INTRO

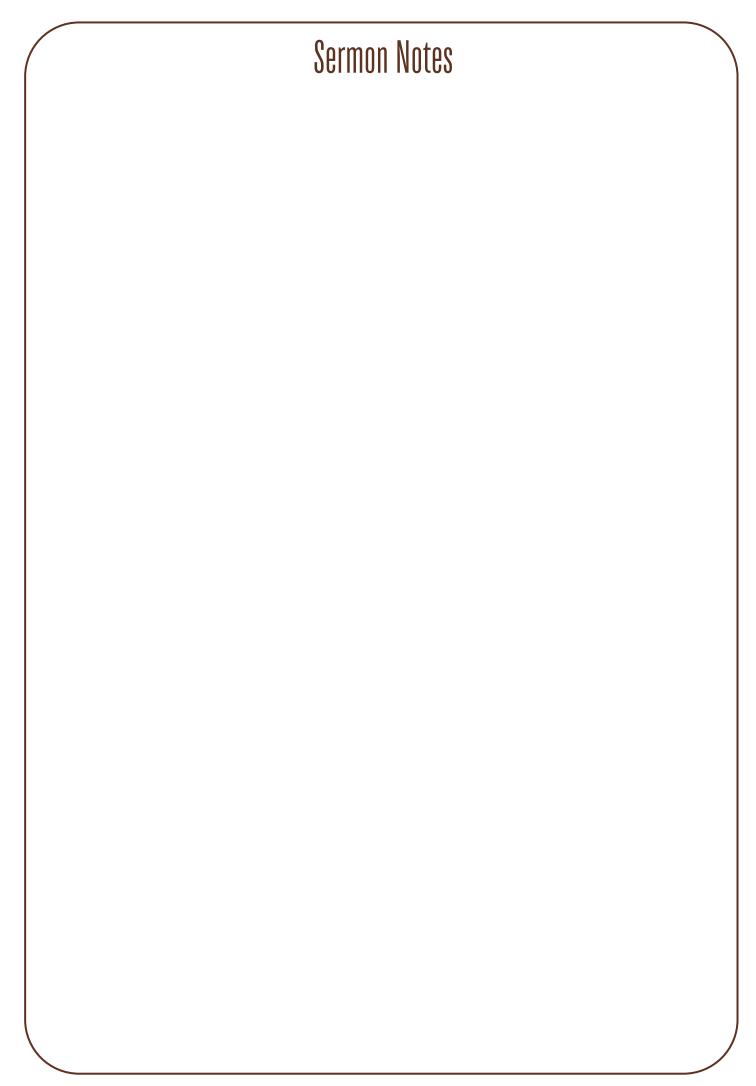
What are some of the things you are most thankful for in your life?

#### Read Job 1:1-22

 What qualities in Job's character, mentioned in verse 1, do you find most admirable?

2. Why do you think God allowed Satan to test Job?

3. What kind of hardship did Job face in verses 13-19? What would be the equivalent today?



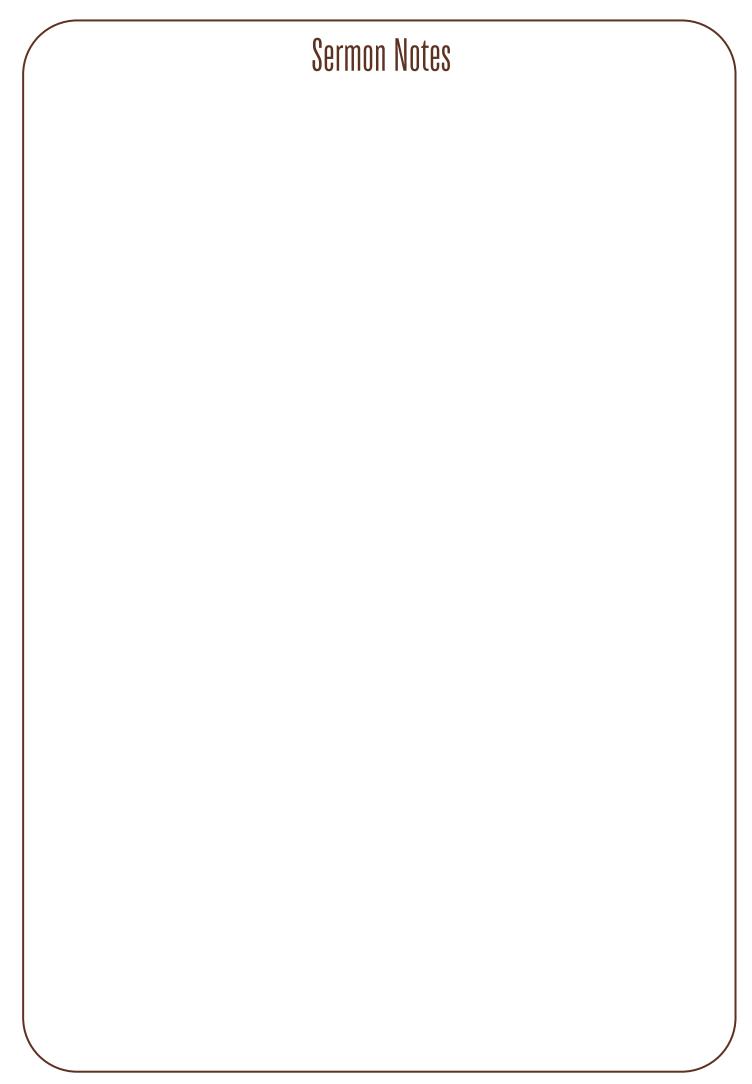
- 4. What might Job have been thinking as messenger after messenger delivered bad news?
- 7 Read verse 21. In what way is this verse comforting? In what way is this verse challenging? In what ways does it lead you to gratitude?

- 5. Job's first response to the news is to grieve wholeheartedly. Do you find it easy to allow yourself time to grieve when trouble comes your way?
- 8. How does this chapter encourage you to react to losses and setbacks in your life?

6. Why and how do you think Job's natural response was to worship God after hearing the news? What does this say about his relationship with God?



- Share and pray for any in your group or that you know who are particularly suffering at this point in time
- Reflect back on your answers to the introduction question, use those answers to thank God for the good things in your life
- Pray that when suffering comes your way, you will find both the time to grieve and to worship and draw near to God





## Man of Sorrows

## INTRO

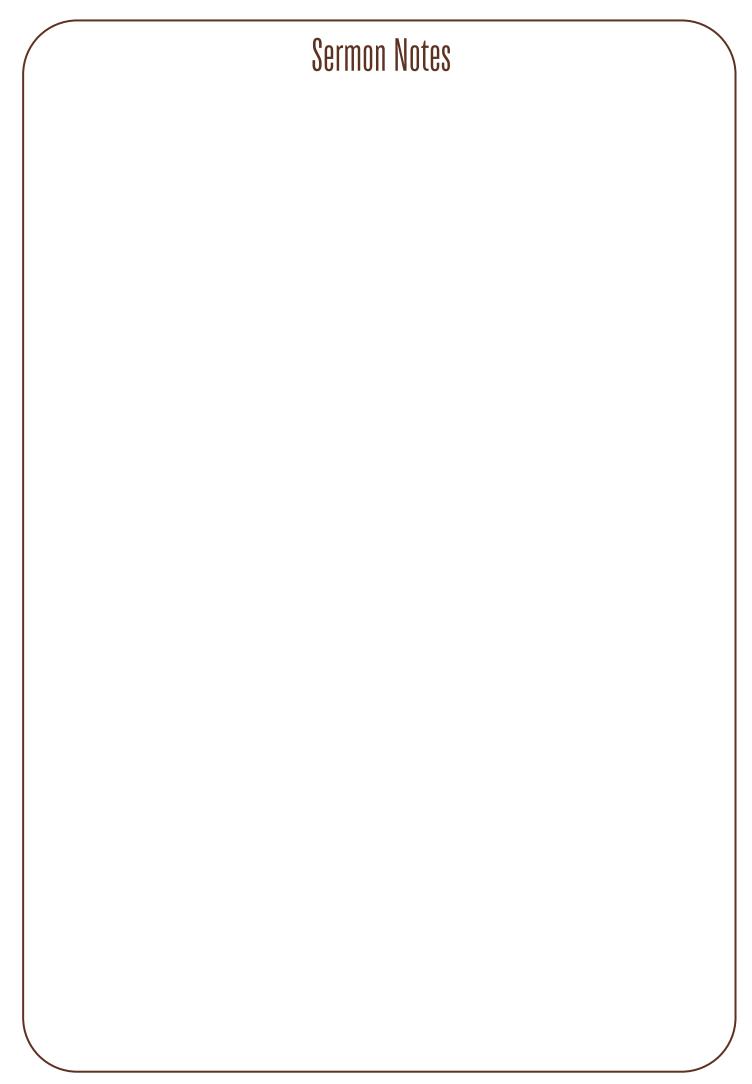
Have you ever felt misunderstood by people when you were going through a hard time? How did you respond?

#### Read Job 2:11 - 3:11

 How do you think Job's friends felt when they saw him in such pain? Why did they stay silent for 7 days?

2. Job curses the day of his birth. How would you describe Job's feelings at this stage?

3. Sorrow touches all of our lives, what do we learn from Job about expressing sorrow, and grief?



#### Read Job 7:11-21

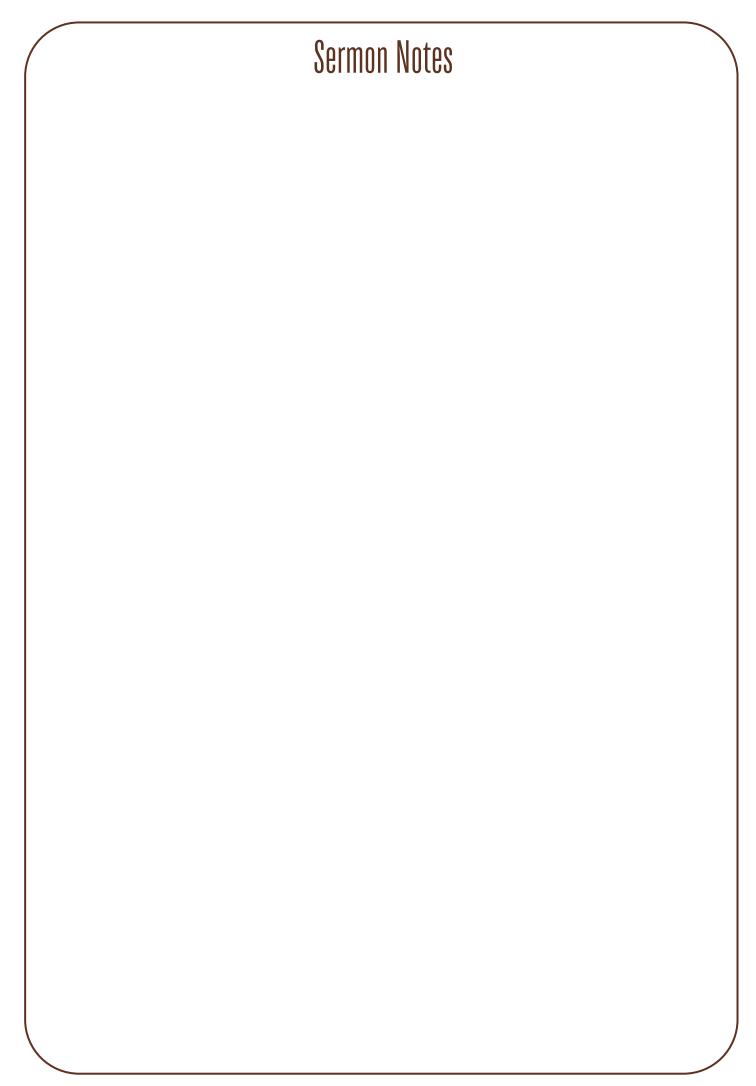
- 4. How do you feel about Job's honesty before God? Are you that honest with God? Is it good to be that honest in prayer?
- Jesus is the only truly innocent sufferer (Man of Sorrows).
   Describe when He suffered and was misunderstood by His friends.

- 5. Is there a connection between our sin and suffering? What is it?
- 8. How does Jesus' suffering give you comfort when you suffer?

6. How can we be better friends with those who are suffering?



- Thank God for the wisdom of others that has helped you.
- Pray that you would always turn toward God in times of confusion, suffering, and sadness.
- Ask God to intervene on behalf of those who are suffering, and to use you to bring comfort and peace.





## I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES

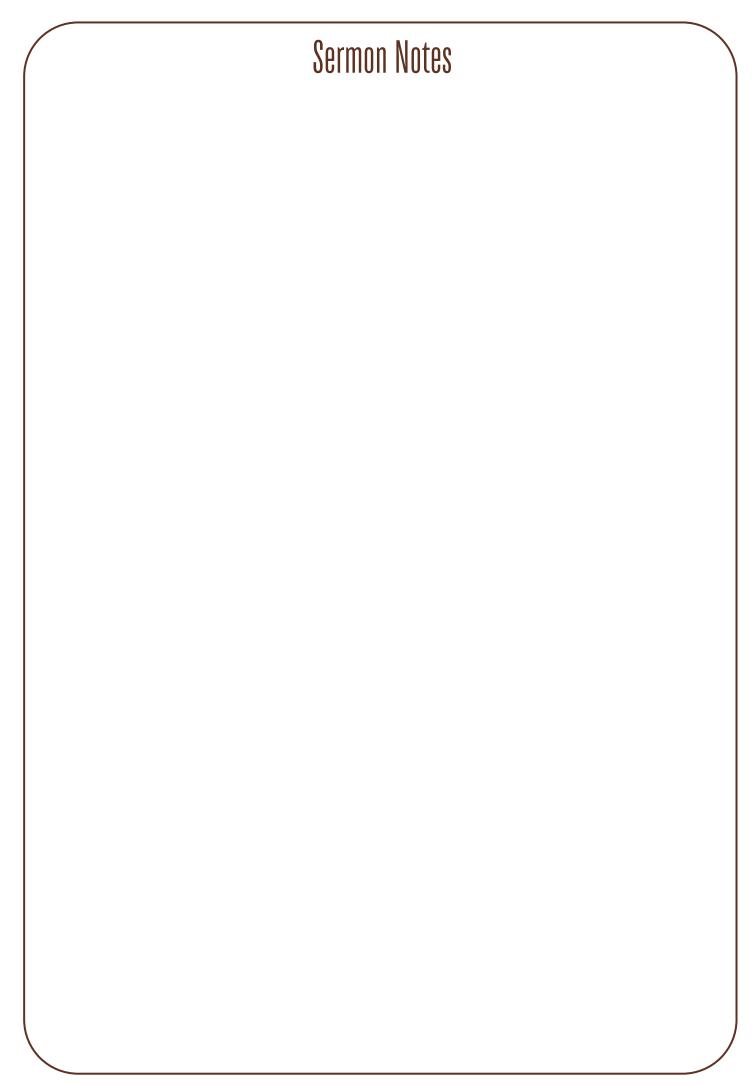
## INTRO

What convinces you to get out of bed in the morning? What motivates you when times are tough?

#### Read Job 19:1-27

 Can you describe what it feels like if you have ever felt abandoned, like your family and friends were estranged from you?

2. How can suffering sometimes create a sense of isolation? Why do you think Job felt so misunderstood by everyone?



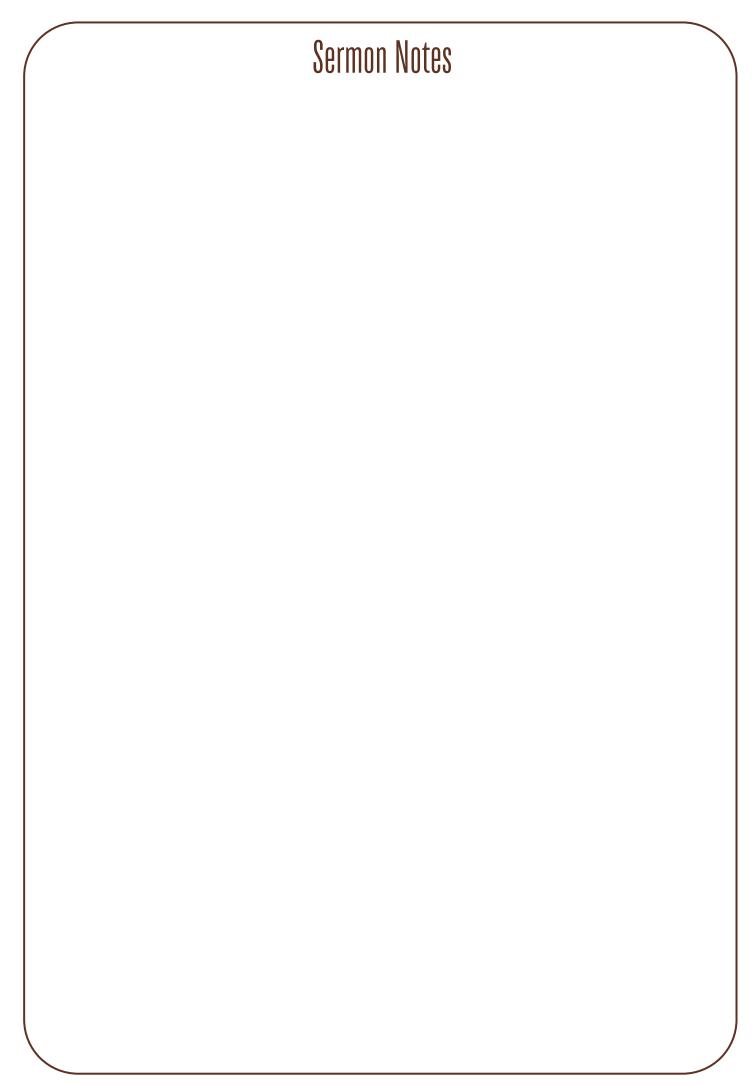
- 3. What do you think of Job's accusation that "God has wronged me"?
- 6. What does Job believe about life after death?

- 4. What does it mean when Job says "He knows his redeemer lives?"
- 7. Jesus is described as the first-fruit of the resurrection (1 Cor 15:20). How does the reality of Jesus' resurrection give you motivation and hope?

5. What other statements of faith does Job declare?



- Pray Job 19:25-27 together aloud.
- Rejoice in the fact that we have brothers and sisters who love and support us. And that we can be those supportive brothers and sisters for others.
- Rejoice in Jesus' resurrection and our inclusion in it.





## BEHOLD OUR GOD

## INTRO

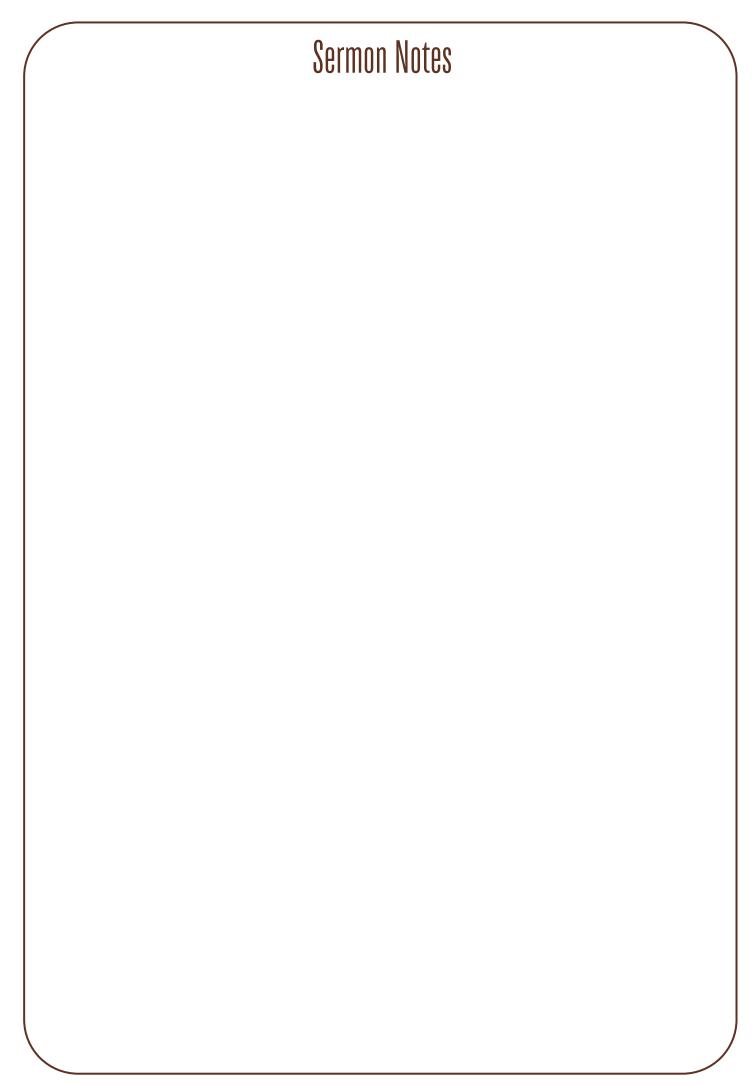
How does the vastness of God's creation inspire you?
What are your favourite parts of God's amazing world?

Job 38 is a turning point in the book of Job. It is the moment when God finally answers.
When God finally answers.
Until this point, Job's friends
Until this point, Job's friends
Interpretations of his interpretations of his suffering, and Job has suffering, and Job has suffering, and Job has suffering of challenges Job's Now, God challenges Job's Now, God challenges Job's understanding of the universe and his questioning of divine and his questioning of divine justice, emphasising his own omnipotence and omniscience.

#### Read Job 38:1-11

1. Out of a whirlwind God responds to Job, challenging him to answer questions. If you were in Job's place, how would you react to God's questions?

2. How does God's questioning of Job help illustrate the gap between human and divine wisdom?



- 3. What are some practical ways to embrace humility and awe in light of God's profound wisdom and power seen in chapter 38?
- 6. How does this chapter inspire you to hold on to faith during struggles?

#### Read Job 42:1-17

- 4. How does Job's response to God in vv.1-6 reflect humility and repentance?
- 7. What role does prayer play in Job's restoration? Where do you know you need to grow in your prayer life?

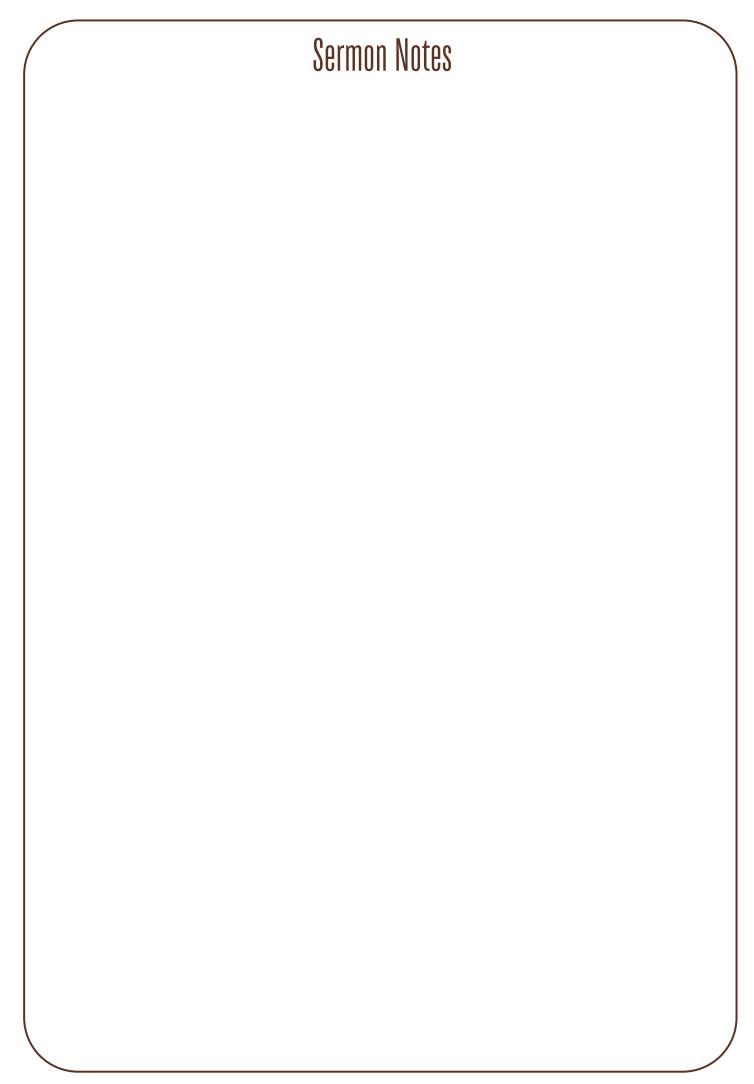
5. How does Job's intercession for his friends demonstrate forgiveness and reconciliation?

#### **Extension Question**

8. How does Job's experience inform you about how to interact with others who are suffering?



- Bring your trials before God, asking Him to teach you afresh of his sovereign and divine love
- Pray around the group for any sadnesses, issues, struggles; and ask God to show his purposes and grace
- Give thanks for all you have learnt through this challenging study, and ask God to bring growth to our whole Church as we learn to trust Him more and more





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