

# Sovereignty, Suffering, and Sympathy

## A Thematic Study in the Book of Job

### Overview

Jesus promised that, in this sin-stained world, we “will have trouble,” yet He encouraged us to “take heart” (John 16:33, NIV). Throughout the waves of life, we all find ourselves, at one time or another, either in the midst of suffering or trying to help someone else who is feeling crushed under the weight of it. How are we to walk in the midst of hardship, pain, agony, and affliction? How can we come alongside and help someone who is hurting? Thankfully, God has not left us without witness.

The book of Job, which is both theologically rich and practical, provides these answers and more. Central to Job is the important lesson of how a proper understanding of God’s sovereignty and goodness will lead to hope and comfort in the midst of suffering and produce godly sympathy for others who suffer.

### Schedule

Lesson	Date	Topic
1	1/13/2013	Overview and Intro to Study
2	1/20/2013	Sovereignty Behind the Scenes
3	1/27/2013	The Source of Job’s Problems
4	2/3/2013	An Eternal Perspective
5	2/10/2013	With Friends Like These...
6	2/17/2013	Digging into the Dialogue
7	2/24/2013	Digging into the Dialogue (cont.)
8	3/3/2013	Conditionality and Certainty
9	3/10/2013	The Scope of God’s Plan
10	3/17/2013	The Glory of God
11	3/24/2013	The Sovereign Lord Speaks
12	3/31/2013	Lessons Learned

### Approach

As the body of Christ, we desire to grow spiritually by being conformed into the image of Christ. To do so, we have the dual objective of *learning* and *applying*. Information without application leads to dead orthodoxy, and proper application is impossible without first laying the foundation of knowledge. Thus, we will endeavor to combine meaningful content with a rich discussion of biblical principles, as well as their implications and applications. Each 45-minute session will consist of a mixture of interactive instruction, large-group discussion, and small-group interaction.