**UNCERTAIN: CERTAIN FAITH IN UNCERTAIN TIMES**

**Job 1:8-11 & 20-22**

**Daily Time With Truth**

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1:** Philippians 4:6-7 New International Version (NIV)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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**Day 2:** Colossians 3:2 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

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**Day 3:** Romans 5:3-4 New Living Translation (NLT)

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

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**Day 4:**

1 Pet 2:19-20 New Living Translation (NLT)

For God is pleased when, conscious of his will, you patiently endure unjust treatment. Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.

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**Day 5:** 1 Pet 1:6-7 New Living Translation (NLT)

So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

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**Discussion Questions**

1. Discuss something you learned or were touched by from the message this past Sunday!

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1. Describe a time when you or someone you know went through a season of suffering. How did God reveal Himself through the suffering?

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1. What is the danger that we must be prepared for when we go through a time of suffering? How does satan like to use suffering against God?

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1. Larry King said that the main reason he can’t believe in God is because of the suffering he sees in the world. What would you say to someone who says, “If God is a God of love then why is there so much suffering in the world?”

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1. Read Romans 8:28. What would the “good” be that God promises to work for in his children?

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1. Joseph suffered greatly in his life. He was sold, accused unfairly, and thrown into prison. What was his explanation for all of what happened to him? Read Genesis 50:20.

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1. After Job received the bad news from the messengers about his possessions and family, the Bible says he worshiped God. How can worship bring about a deeper relationship with God?

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1. People in our community are suffering. Because of this…they are looking for relief. How can we demonstrate in the midst of our suffering and uncertainty that we can always look to God for help?

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**Backstory:**

“He begins by introducing a third party into the equation. The relationship between God and humans is not exclusive and closed. Among God’s creatures there is the great adversary (see [chs. 1–2](https://www.biblica.com/resources/?osis=NIV:Job.1-Job.2)). Incapable of contending with God hand to hand, power pitted against power, he is bent on frustrating God’s creation enterprise centered on God’s relationship with the creature that bears his image. As tempter he seeks to alienate humans from God (see [Ge 3](https://www.biblica.com/resources/niv/genesis/3/); [Mt 4:1](https://www.biblica.com/resources/?osis=NIV:Matt.4.1)); as accuser (one of the names by which he is called, *́s a ̣t a n,* means “accuser”) he seeks to alienate God from humans (see [Zec 3:1](https://www.biblica.com/resources/?osis=NIV:Zech.3.1); [Rev 12:9–10](https://www.biblica.com/resources/?osis=NIV:Rev.12.9-Rev.12.10)). His all-consuming purpose is to drive an irremovable wedge between God and humans to effect an alienation that cannot be reconciled.

In his story, the author portrays this adversary in his boldest and most radical assault on God and godly people in the special and intimate relationship that is dearest to them both. When God calls up the name of Job before the accuser and testifies to his righteousness—this creature in whom God takes special delight—Satan attempts with one crafty thrust both to assail God’s beloved and to show up God as a fool. True to one of his modes of operation, he accuses Job before God. He charges that Job’s godliness is evil. The very godliness in which God takes such delight lacks all integrity; it is a terrible sin. Job’s godliness is mere self-serving; he is righteous only because it pays. If God will only let Satan tempt Job by breaking the link between righteousness and blessing, he will expose this man and all righteous people as the frauds they are.

It is the adversary’s ultimate challenge. He is sure he has found an opening to accomplish his purpose in the very structure of creation. Humans are totally dependent on God for their very lives and well-being. That fact can occasion one of humankind’s greatest temptations: to love the gifts rather than the Giver, to try to please God merely for the sake of his benefits, to be “religious” and “good” only because it pays. Satan’s accusation of Job is that this is the deep truth concerning his apparently godly and upright conduct—that this is, in fact, the deep truth about the godliness of all righteous people. If he is right, if the godliness of the righteous in whom God delights can be shown to be evil, then a chasm of alienation stands between God and human beings that cannot be bridged. Then even the redemption of human beings is unthinkable, for the godliest among them would be shown to be the most ungodly. God’s whole enterprise in creation and redemption would be shown to be radically flawed, and God can only sweep it all away in awful judgment.” <https://www.biblica.com/resources/scholar-notes/niv-study-bible/intro-to-job/>

1. What is the adversary attempting to accuse Job of, and for what ultimate purpose?

2. What would the result be if the adversary was successful with his ultimate challenge, and how does Job inspire you to respond when you are challenged similarly by him?