

# God in the darkness – Hidden Gems

There was a man called Job a friend of God who lived in Uz 1:1 – 1:5

- Integrity, Upright, Shuns evil and fears God

A man who was both blessed and a blessing

- Concerned for the heart of his children – he would hold sacrifices for them
- Job knows that by nature we do not honour God or give thanks to Him  
Romans 1:21

A council is held in heaven 1:6 - 12

- The sons of God come before God with Satan
- God can have no fellowship with evil but Satan is present.
- Job's adversary is Satan
- The accusation: Job only loves God because God has blessed him physically
- The Satan attacks Job's family and belongings

Job's tragic day 1:13 - 22

- He does not sin or charge God with wrong. 'The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, Blessed be the name of the Lord.'

A further conversation takes place in heaven. 2: 1 - 6

- Job holds fast in his integrity 'although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason
- The Satan is given permission to harm Job personally but not allowed to kill him.

Job is left sitting in the ashes 2: 7 - 10

- An unsympathetic wife
- A friend of God left in utter misery.

The trial is over. Job has passed the test. He is a man of integrity and faith. "In all this Job did not sin with his lips"

## Digging Deeper

1. Job is introduced and his character summarised: 'This man was blameless and upright, he feared God and shunned evil'. How would you define integrity and what would it look like for you?
2. In the Gospel Effectiveness Presentation we quoted Chris Wright: "The world will be interested in our claims about God only when it sees the visible evidence of a different way of living" what did Satan observe about Job?
3. What practical steps can we take so that we grow in our personal integrity as people who know and love Jesus?
4. How is Job 1: 6 – 12 reconciled with God, who is Love?
5. We have a longing to understand the world we experience. Why does the mysterious sufferings of Job cause so much anguish to him and those around him?
6. Job is tested a second time in 2: 1 – 6. Satan intensifies his attack on Job. What do we learn about God and Satan in this short section?
7. In 2:10 Job asks his wife: "Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" How does this fit with your understanding and relationship with God?