

The Suffering of Job

Answer the following questions. Continue writing on the back if you need more room.

1. When the Book of Job was written, the Israelites believed that God rewarded the good and punished the evil in this world. But sometimes this did not make sense to them because they found that bad things sometimes happened to good people (like Job). Jesus is another example of an innocent person who suffered. Describe a time in your life when you thought that God was punishing you. Looking back, what do you think about that time now?
2. Some of Job's friends thought that he probably did something wrong but just was not admitting it. Describe a time when you were accused of something you did not do. How did you feel at the time? How did you react?
3. At one point Job complains to God, "I call to you, O God, but you never answer" (Job 30:20). Many people have expressed this frustration at some point in their lives, yet it isn't necessarily a sign of someone who is losing their faith. The following passage was found etched into the wall of a Nazi concentration camp:

I believe in the sun,
even when it is not shining.

I believe in love,
even when I cannot feel it.

I believe in God,
even when he is silent.

In your life, when has God been the most silent?

4. It is interesting how much Job cries out to God and complains! God certainly puts Job in his place, yet he doesn't seem to be bothered by Job's anger. When and why have you been angry with God? Did you feel as comfortable as Job in expressing it? Why or why not?

