

# INTO THE WOODS

## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF JOB

Once upon a time Satan asked God a question, is Job really righteous, or does he stay in line because he has a good life when he does? God knew Job and trusted him to remain faithful even if life went bad. Thus began a struggle of a community to understand how such a great life could go so wrong. It's like a classic fairy tale where the normal rules don't seem to apply, suddenly danger presses all around, and you don't always know who you can trust.

February 17, 2019 || Job 1:1–22

### **“Once Upon a Time”**

Are people blessed because they are righteous? Or, are they righteous because they are blessed? Paradoxically, blessing comes through suffering, but that doesn't always make it easy to understand or live through.

March 3, 2019 || Job 28:12–28

### **“No Contest”**

How does our human wisdom compare to God's own wisdom? No contest. In comparison our wisdom is foolishness. That doesn't stop us from critiquing and criticizing God himself. If we are going to stand through trials we need to exercise humility recognizing we don't always have the full picture.

March 17, 2019 || Job 36:1–12

### **“Benefit of the Doubt”**

From our vantage point and limited understanding, it can be very difficult to know just what God is doing. So, it's important that we don't jump to a negative conclusion. We need to allow God to work out his will, knowing that he is bringing the best.

February 24, 2019 || Job 16:1–22

### **“Friends Like These”**

The church is a community meant to love and comfort each other, particularly in difficult times. Too often we mean well but hurt each other all the same. How should we stand with the wounded?

March 10, 2019 || Job 30:16–31

### **“Dark Night of the Soul”**

Some times it can feel as if we have stepped through Alice's looking glass. As a result up seems to be down and down, up. In that place even God can feel like an enemy. How does faith direct us to function then?

March 24, 2019 || Job 42:7–17

### **“Happily Ever After”**

When things end well it isn't because we've earned with our devotion, anymore than we earned hardship by our wickedness. Blessing is a gift of God which he desires to pour out on our lives.