

Spiritual Growth Questions for October 31, 2021
Opener: What has God been teaching you this week?

1. **Four times in Job 32:1-5**, it is mentioned that Elihu responds with “wrath.” What is he angry about? **Read Job 32:8-10**. What inspiration is Elihu claiming? How is his approach different than the three friends? According to Elihu, why did he have to speak?
2. **Read Job 32:1 & 33:8-12**. Elihu thinks that Job has been wrong in some of what he has said. What is the error that he is pointing out? How can this error be a warning to us when we are in deep trials? What attribute of God does he point Job to in 33:12? Why is this truth so critical in stepping outside of our boxes?
3. **Read Job 33:14-19**. According to Elihu, God speaks to humans in two ways. What are they? Have you experienced God speaking to you in this way? Please share. How could hearing God speak in these ways help Job get outside of his box?
4. **Read Hebrews 1:1-2, 2 Timothy 3:16, Philippians 2:12-13, 1 Thess.5:11, Psalm 19:1-2, Romans 8:26-27**. Write down and discuss how God speaks to us today. Which of these have you experienced? How does hearing God speak encourage you? Why is hearing God speak a key to stepping outside of our boxes?
5. Suffering is apportioned to us as individually designed, expert therapy by the loving hand of our Great Physician. **Read 1 Peter 1:6-7, Hebrews 12:10-11, 2 Corinthians 1:8-9, James 1:2-4**. What are some of the redemptive purposes of suffering given from these verses? How could this redemptive suffering help someone step outside of their box? How could pain be a path to growth?
6. As you read **Job 33:18-33**, the word pit is used 5 times: **vs.18, 22, 24, 28, 30**. What is the main point Elihu is trying to get across? How would you compare it to the Apostle Peter in **2 Peter 3:9**?
7. How would you help yourself or someone else step outside the box during a time of suffering? What practical things would you counsel them to do or not to do?

1 Peter 1:6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Why? Answering Life’s Toughest Questions:
A study of the book of Job
Stepping Outside Our Boxes Job 32-33
October 31, 2021 Pastor John Lloyd

Why? It’s a question that is at the heart of every person who undergoes serious trials. Why suffering? Why evil? Why pain? Why injustice? Why false accusations? Why? What is God’s purpose? I know I have asked these questions throughout my life. Today, we will continue our study of the book of Job. Job is part of the wisdom books of the Bible. It is my prayer that each of us could gain both wisdom and eternal perspective to help us with our lives and trials that we face. We will encounter Job after he has lost everything. The root question that Job and his friends are trying to answer is why is Job suffering? What is the cause? In our passage, Elihu will begin a new conversation for Job and his friends to step outside of the box for answers to why Job is suffering. Our prayer is this study may help us step outside of our natural viewpoints on pain. **God is bigger than our boxes!**

Job 33:1 “Listen to my words, Job; pay attention to what I have to say. 2 Now that I have begun to speak, let me continue. 3 I speak with all sincerity; I speak the truth. 4 For the Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. 5 Answer me, if you can; make your case and take your stand. 6 Look, you and I both belong to God. I, too, was formed from clay. 7 So you don’t need to be afraid of me. I won’t come down hard on you. 8 “You have spoken in my hearing, and I have heard your very words. 9 You said, ‘I am pure; I am without sin; I am innocent; I have no guilt. 10 God is picking a quarrel with me, and he considers me his enemy. 11 He puts my feet in the stocks and watches my every move.’ 12 “But you are wrong, and I will show you why. For God is greater than any human being. 13 So why are you bringing a charge against him? Why say he does not respond to people’s complaints? 14 For God speaks again and again, though people do not recognize it. 15 He speaks in dreams, in visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they lie in their beds. 16 He whispers in their ears and terrifies them with warnings. 17 He makes them turn from doing wrong; he keeps them from pride. 18 He protects them from the grave, from crossing over the river of death. 19 “Or God disciplines people with pain on their sickbeds, with ceaseless aching in their bones. 20 They lose their appetite or even the most delicious food. 21 Their flesh wastes away, and their bones stick out. 22 They are at death’s door; the angels of death wait for them. 23 “But if an angel from heaven appears— a special messenger to intercede for a person and declare that he is upright— 24 he will be gracious and say, ‘Rescue him from the grave, for I have found a ransom for his life.’ 25 Then his body will become as healthy as a child’s, firm and youthful again. 26 When he prays to God, he will be accepted. And God will receive him with joy and restore him to good standing. 27 He will declare to his friends, ‘I sinned and twisted the truth, but it was not worth it. 28 God rescued me from the grave, and now my life is filled with light.’ 29 “Yes, God does these things again and again for people.

Job 33:30 He rescues them from the grave so they may enjoy the light of life. 31 Mark this well, Job. Listen to me, for I have more to say. 32 But if you have anything to say, go ahead. Speak, for I am anxious to see you justified. 33 But if not, then listen to me. Keep silent and I will teach you wisdom!" and he sets up others in in their place.

Big Idea: God wants us to step outside of our boxes. His plans are much greater than our plans!

Introduction of Elihu;

Job 32:2 Then Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, burned with anger. He burned with anger at Job because he justified himself rather than God. 3 He burned with anger also at Job's three friends because they had found no answer, although they had declared Job to be in the wrong.

Job 32:8 But it is the spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand. (Job 33:4 and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.)

I. God is _____ than any of our boxes!

Job 33:6 Behold, I am toward God as you are; I too was pinched off from a piece of clay. 7 Behold, no fear of me need terrify you; my pressure will not be heavy upon you.

Isaiah 64:8 But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Job 33:12 "Behold, in this you are not right. I will answer you, for God is greater than man.

Deuteronomy 3:24 'O Lord God, you have only begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as yours?

Psalms 135:5 For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. (Pray Ephesians 1:18-20)

Lord, I acknowledge that your range of understanding is way past mine. I realize the breath in my lungs is from you. You are my creator! Help me to see your greatness. Help me to trust that your ways are better than mine and step outside of any box that I have constructed.

God is bigger than my box!

II. God is _____ to us to step out of our boxes.

Job 33:14 For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it. 15 In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, while they slumber on their beds, 16 then he opens the ears of men and terrifies them with warnings,

Job 33:19 "Man is also rebuked with pain on his bed and with continual strife in his bones, 20 so that his life loathes bread, and his appetite the choicest food.

How does God Speak to Us Today?

His _____	Hebrew 1:1-2
His _____	2 Timothy 3:16
His _____	Philippians 2:12-13; John 14:26
His _____	1 Thessalonians 5:11
His _____	Psalms 19:1-2; Romans 1:20
_____	Romans 8:26-27

Job 33:29 "Behold, God does all these things, twice, three times, with a man, 30 to bring back his soul from the pit, that he may be lighted with the light of life.

Hearing, receiving and obeying His Word (even when I do not understand) helps me to step outside of my boxes. God is bigger than my box!

III. Allow your _____ to be your _____ to growth.

Job 33:26 then man prays to God, and he accepts him; he sees his face with a shout of joy, and he restores to man his righteousness. 27 He sings before men and says: 'I sinned and perverted what was right, and it was not repaid to me. 28 He has redeemed my soul from going down into the pit, and my life shall look upon the light.'

Nobody wants to be sick; everybody prays for healing. But the British Congregational theologian P.T. Forsyth said, "It is a greater thing to pray for pain's conversion than its removal." That's what Paul learned to do with his thorn in the flesh. What might have been a weapon to tear him down became, by the grace of God, a tool to build him up! Had he lost that messenger of pain, Paul might have become proud of his spiritual achievements; and that pride might have led him into sin. Wiersbe

Romans 5:3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

**Praying for God to grow us amid pain and break open our boxes!
May, by the grace of God, we begin to step outside of our boxes!
God is bigger than my box!**