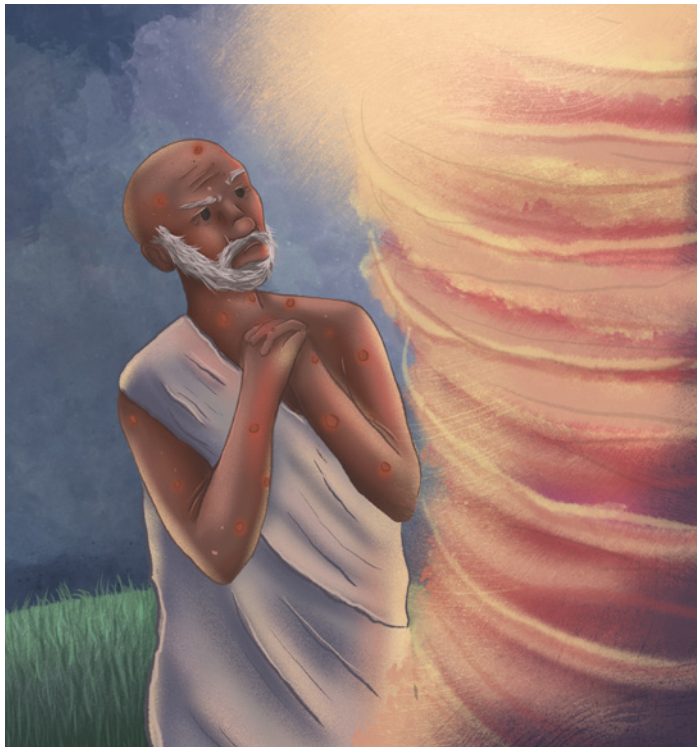


Job 23:1-9,16-17

Do you know who I am?

As we continue our journey through Job, we come to a dialogue between Job and God. Rather than providing words of comfort in Job's suffering, God points Job towards his power as the creator of the universe. God's omnipotence throws Job's creatureliness into stark relief.



DRAW



Draw on your mirror with white board pens. What does God love about you? Draw a picture or words and arrows to record what God loves about you.

LOOK

Spend some time this week stargazing. Reflect on the bigness of the universe and God's care.

Plant

God demonstrates his care for creation in the passage. Made in God's image, humans carry this responsibility to care for our world. How can you demonstrate care for the planet today? You could, pick up litter, plant some bulbs, water indoor plants or care for a pet, and reflect on how God sustains us all.

Bible notes



As we read though the Bible an interesting question arises. Does God change or do the writers' understandings of God change? CS Rodd suggests that when reading Job, 'We need to put away all thoughts of the rather sentimental "fatherhood" of God that have become common in modern Christianity.

God in Job is the omnipotent and omniscient creator"¹. One could say God in Job is like the drill sergeant Emil Foley, played by Louis Gossett Jr in the classic film *An Officer and a Gentleman*. Foley's sole mission seems to be to get new recruit Zack Mayo (played by Richard Gere) to 'man up' (cf 'Gird up your loins like a man', Job 38:3), putting him through an endless sequence of hellish physical and psychological tests. The whirlwind (38:1) emphasises the power and transcendence of God. The verses that follow form quite a contrast to chapter one, when God is celebrating Job. Here God addresses Job very harshly. One commentator describes it as the divine cross examination. In verses four to seven, we have a picture of creation in keeping with the religio-scientific thinking of the time. Pointing to the complexity of creation, God none too subtly lets Job know who is boss.

¹CS Rodd, *The Book of Job*, (Epworth), p.73.

First impressions

- What fills you with awe?
- How do you respond to something vast and beyond your comprehension?
- What words could you use to describe how wonderful God is?



A sending out prayer

Lord, your majesty is beyond compare:
you made all created things,
you are beyond our understanding.
We are just a small part of the mystery of creation,
yet we are loved and nurtured by you.
Thank you, Lord. Amen.



LISTEN

Look through your prayer journal or reflect on prayers you pray regularly. Make space to stop and listen for God's side of the conversation. What does God want to say in response to you? Write down what you sense or Bible verses that come to mind. Alternatively, draw yourself with your questions, and ask God to show you 'where is love in the picture?' Draw that on your picture too. How does it change your perspective?